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A 'good' Israeli



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Israeli-owned firms doing business with Iran

By STEVE RODAN

Over the last two years, Iran has been purchasing medical and hi-tech equipment through Israeli companies that have subsidiaries in Europe, industry sources said.

The equipment has been ordered by Iranian officials from companies including Salgad and Geneva, a company partially owned by Koor.

Industry sources said Salgad, a trading company, was established to conduct trade with Iranian companies in fields ranging from farming to communications.

Koor executives have denied conducting business with Iran.

But Ilan Traitel, director-general of the Beersheba-based Medent, said, "the Iranians are interested in everything that you can offer them."

"They are interested in agriculture, high-technology, and computers. They don't say no to anything," said Traitel, whose company supplies Iran with medical and laboratory equipment.

Traitel said Medent trades with Iran through a third country, which he would not name. He said that contacts with Iran were launched during last June's Akema trade

show in Frankfurt.

Teheran Declaration slams Israel, Page 6

"We are offering them incubators, hot plate stirrers, laboratory ovens,"

he said. "These are the main equipment. And they pay."

Business circles close to Israel's trade with Iran estimate it at an annual nine-digit figure in US dollars.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials are probing the possibility of resolving Iran's claim that Israel owes it \$1 billion from oil dealings during the Shah's rule, by having Russian com-

panies purchase the debt. Israel would in turn buy Russian natural gas and invest in Russia.

Israel and Iran have quietly agreed to arbitration on the issue with the help of Germany. Israeli officials, particularly National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, hope that an agreement with Teheran could lead to the Islamic republic moderating its

stance toward Israel.

Earlier this week, Israel Radio reported that a group of 16 agriculture experts secretly visited Iran and met with its deputy agriculture minister. Their visit came following Iranian approaches to European subsidiaries of Israeli companies in search of irrigation equipment and spare parts for tractors and combines bought in the 1970s.



Criticizing the critics

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks to reporters in Tel Aviv last night about a lengthy newspaper report critical of his wife Sara's behavior, as she looks on. In his brief comments, he called the report "loathsome" and "evil." Story, Page 4.

Ministers fail to agree on pullback map

By JAY BUSHNICKY

A four-member ministerial team yesterday failed in its third attempt to map the parameters of the next IDF withdrawal in the West Bank, and therefore will be unable to present a consensus on this issue to the cabinet when it convenes on Sunday, a senior government source said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who heads the team, tended to agree with the approach advocated by Foreign Minister David Levy. They contend that the additional areas to be handed over to the Palestinian Authority should

be specified to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright when she meets with Netanyahu in Paris next week.

Albright also will hold talks with PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, probably in Geneva, after which Arafat and Netanyahu are due to meet in London.

"The team members differ over whether the territorial ingredients will suffice or whether there must be a precise recipe," the source said. The source said there are "several nuances," but no definitive map.

He also ruled out having a discussion at Sunday's cabinet meeting on

the percentage of territory to be relinquished. He predicted the ministers will hear two or three different positions on the projected withdrawal.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon will argue that Netanyahu should inform Albright of the principles guiding the cabinet in its effort to demarcate the projected pullback, but not mention any specific areas.

Mordechai's spokesman denied a report on Israel Radio that he favors withdrawal from 13 percent of the territory in question.

"The defense establishment proposed several alternatives for the second redeployment, but none of them encompasses 13 percent of the area," he said.

Sharon advocates the creation of security zones parallel to the Jordan River and the Green Line, retention of the Judean Desert, and jurisdiction over all of the West Bank settlements and their access roads.

He will urge the cabinet to join him on a tour of the areas under discussion and will oppose their taking any decisions on redeployment before they see the area.

See PULLBACK, Page 12

Senior US official on eve of Indyk visit: Albright won't pressure PM

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON — In a diplomatic maneuver evidently intended to drive home the Clinton administration's abiding interest in the map-making process, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Martin Indyk is expected to confer with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other members of the four-minister team during his stay. He also is likely to meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and senior Palestinian officials.

Indyk will join Secretary of

State Madeleine Albright for her talks with Netanyahu and Arafat in Europe next week.

A senior administration official said yesterday that "while there is still a strongly felt sense of urgency" that Albright will continue to convey when she meets with Netanyahu and Arafat, "we don't know how long this is going to take. We have been at this effort for many months now."

The US expects to conduct "a more detailed discussion" with Netanyahu on his plans for the next phase of the redeployment, but does not believe he will come armed with maps, the official said.

"As to what he brings, that's his

decision. We are not making any demands or placing any expectations on him."

Indyk will visit Syria and Jordan before joining Albright. However, a US official said that "this is not the start of a new initiative" to resuscitate the frozen Israeli-Syrian talks.

"It is unrealistic to expect that progress could be made on the Israeli-Syrian track until we've got the Israeli-Palestinian track moving again," the official said.

The US, meanwhile, has retreated from the position it laid out last month.

See ALBRIGHT, Page 12

Hanukka to light up NY skyline

By MARILYN HENRY

Forget the giant Lubavitch menorah in Central Park. The New York skyline will mark the first night of Hanukka with its most famous skyscraper, when the

Empire State Building will be illuminated with blue and white lights.

The 102-story Empire State glows on various occasions. It's green and red each year at Christmas, and lavender on Gay Pride Weekend. The building was bathed in blue to celebrate the birthday of Frank "Ol' Blue Eyes" Sinatra and to mourn the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin.

But it never marked Hanukka until Mallory Blair Greitzer, a nine-year-old from the Upper East Side, wrote to the building to ask for the special lighting.

"They said, 'No way, Jose' — every religion gets one holiday, and we had Jewish Independence Day," she told The New York Times, referring to Yom

Ha'atzma'ut. "But when I think of Jewish holidays, I think of Hanukka."

Mallory's father then wrote to Leonora Helmsley, whose company, Helmsley-Spear, manages the building. Helmsley, who has a wicked reputation as New York's "Queen of Mean," ordered that the building's lights be blue and white on the night of December 23. Mallory is expected to hit the light switch.

"She was touched when I showed her the correspondence from this young girl," Helmsley's publicist, Howard Rubenstein, told The Times. "Her feeling was that it is appropriate and good for New York interreligious understanding."

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NEWS

in brief

A-G: Politicians must deal with extradition

While agreeing that the Palestinian Authority's refusal to extradite the murderers of Ets and Efraim Tzur, who were killed a year ago, is a violation of the Oslo Accords, Noam Solberg, a senior aide to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, said that "the matter has been referred to the political echelon, which must take into account all the political, security, and other relevant factors and decide accordingly."

Solberg was replying to a request by MK Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) that his office work to secure the extraditions. *Itim*

Horn-honking murder suspect remanded

Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court Judge Noga Ohad yesterday remanded suspected murderer Haim Luzon for five more days. On Monday, Luzon, 24, allegedly stabbed to death Pavel Ya'akovchuk with a switchblade knife, after Ya'akovchuk complained about Luzon honking his truck's horn repeatedly outside his Petah Tikva apartment house.

Police said the two argued, then Ya'akovchuk punched Luzon and Luzon stabbed him in the heart.

Luzon's attorney argued that his client stabbed Ya'akovchuk in self-defense, while a police representative presented the court with classified new evidence that he said required his continued detention. *Itim*

Kiryat Shmona gets new mayor

The Kiryat Shmona City Council last night elected Likud member Haim Barbi as mayor, to replace Prosper Azran following his retirement. Barbi, 42, a mechanical engineer, said he would carry out the Interior Ministry's recovery program and fire dozens of extraneous workers appointed by his predecessor. The ministry intends to hold early municipal elections in Kiryat Shmona within eight months, due to the city's growing deficit of over NIS 30 million. The election date is to be set after the completion of a ministry investigation of the city administration. *Itim*

Six Israelis on way home from Indian jail

Six Israelis, imprisoned two years ago in India on drug charges, are returning home. Three are to arrive today and the others on Sunday. Both the Foreign Ministry and President Ezer Weizman worked for their release and had hired Indian lawyers to appeal their convictions. Two weeks ago, an Indian court accepted their appeal and ordered them freed. *Itim*

Former SS commander indicted

A former SS officer was indicted yesterday for the reprisal killings of 15 Italians in Milan during World War II, the ANSA news agency reported. Theodor Saeewecke, 86, was scheduled to go on trial March 20 on a charge of "violence by means of homicide of Italian citizens," ANSA said. Saeewecke was the SS commander in Milan when 15 Italians were executed on August 10, 1944, as a reprisal for a resistance attack.

The case was brought by Turin military prosecutors investigating slayings of civilians by the German occupiers. Prosecutor Pier Paolo Rivello said he would ask for Saeewecke's extradition from Germany only after a conviction, according to ANSA. *AP*

One killed, two hurt in crash

Awad Aliq, 23, of El Azzama in the Negev, was killed yesterday when he lost control of his car and crashed into an empty bus parked by the side of the road, between Beersheba and Ramat Hovav.

Two passengers suffered moderate to serious injuries. They are being treated at Beersheba's Soroka Hospital. *Itim*

Man drowns off Ashkelon

The body of an unidentified man, about 30, was found on Ashkelon's Delila Beach yesterday morning. As the police have received no reports of a missing person fitting the description, it is thought the man might be a foreign worker. *Itim*

PA urges defiance of census law

By ELLI WOHLGELFANT

While the Palestinian census proceeded for the second day yesterday, the tug-of-war over the count in Jerusalem continued to be an issue between the government and the Palestinian Authority.

The Palestinian Legislative Council urged residents of eastern Jerusalem to defy the Israeli law that was passed late Wednesday night, barring "activities of a political or governmental nature, or any such similar activities that do not respect the sovereignty of the State of Israel" by the PA or "any person working on its behalf."

"We call on the Palestinian residents of Jerusalem to ignore the Israeli occupation law and to exercise their right to provide information to the census takers," said a council statement.

Hassan Abu Libdeh, the director of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, declared the first day of the census a success.

Pressed at a news conference in Jenin about whether the count would also yield results in Jerusalem, Abu Libdeh said, "I believe it will," but he was vague when asked how it would be carried out. "We are not at liberty to

reveal our cards. We are working according to a program, and the truth will be in the results."

Abu Libdeh said that Israeli resistance to the census in Jerusalem is a "hostile provocation. Israel's objection is meaningless due to the fact that the whole world supports the Palestinian Authority."

There was speculation that some of the census information might be collected by fax or telephone, rather than volunteers going door to door, and that other census takers might pose as students collecting data for research.

But the call to participate in the

census was not universally heard even in villages outside Jerusalem, where many residents with Israeli identity cards refused to be counted.

The PA sent four field workers to Azzaim, 5 km. east of Jerusalem, but they were rebuffed except by a few families. In some cases, people even refused to let them into their homes, which resulted in one of the census takers resigning.

A supervisor was sent to try to convince the villagers to participate, without success.

Reuters adds:

The US yesterday refused to

takes sides in the census dispute. Calling Jerusalem "the most sensitive issue" between the two parties, deputy spokesman James Foley said the State Department had decided not to make any definitive public comment.

"Jerusalem is really the most sensitive issue and it's one that we believe that the parties have agreed to treat when they enter the permanent-status negotiations," he told reporters.

"We believe, in that context, that anything that we might say on this issue, on Jerusalem, would be unhelpful at this point," he said.

IDF on high alert for terror group anniversaries

By ARISH O'SULLIVAN

The security forces have been put on high alert over the weekend against possible terror attacks, military sources said.

The alert comes as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Hamas mark the anniversaries of their founding. The PFLP marked its 30th anniversary yesterday.

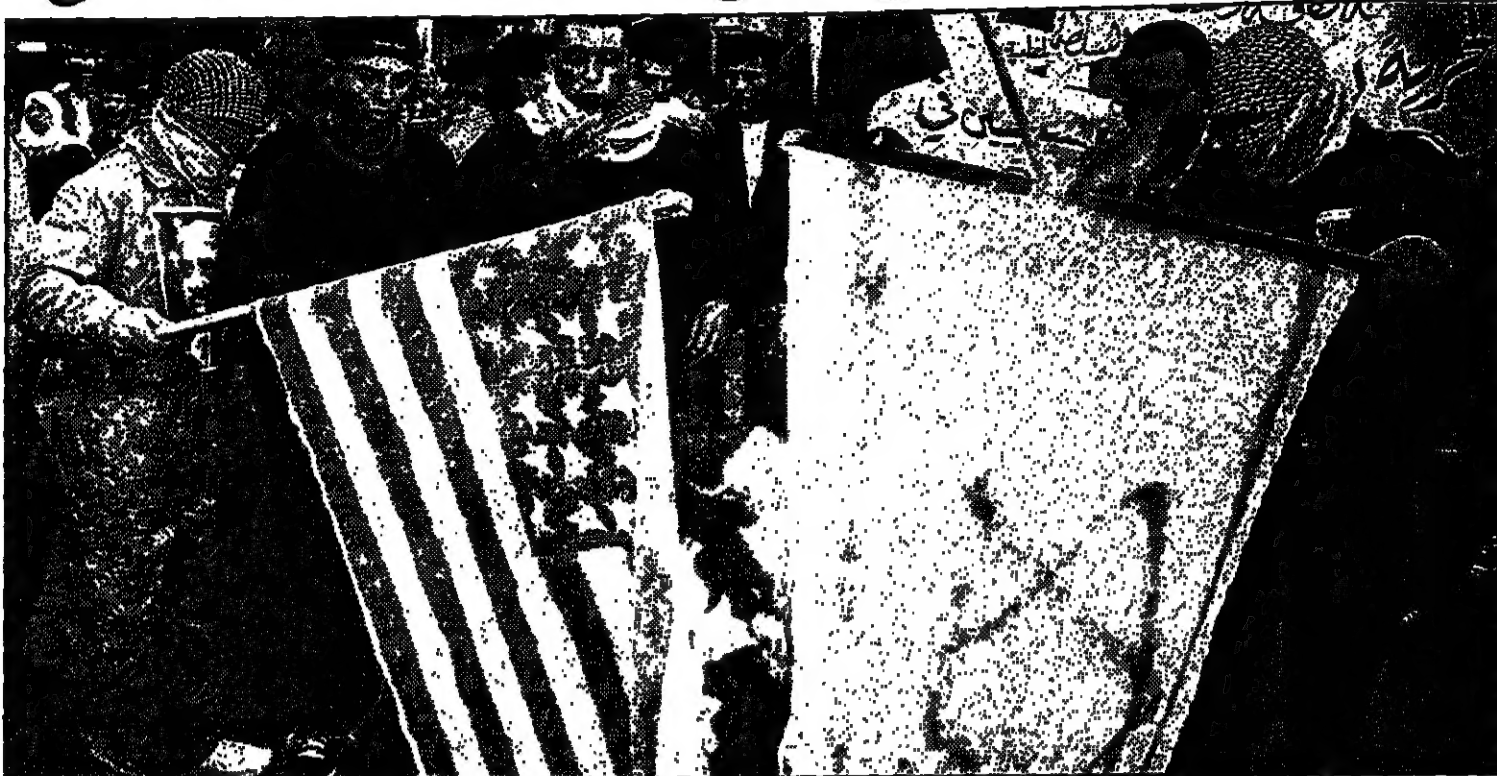
Hamas is marking its anniversary on Sunday.

Military sources said that there were no concrete warnings of attacks, but intelligence assessments presumed the anniversaries could be a catalyst for such actions.

The IDF has beefed up some patrols, a military source said. Jewish settlers have been warned and security chiefs in settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip have been briefed on the alert.

"It's not just a single day, but an atmosphere that is being created due to the anniversaries," the military source said.

Last year, PFLP terrorists shot dead Ets Tzur and her son Efraim, as they drove near Ramallah on their way home to Beit-El.



Palestinians burn an American and an Israeli flag during a rally in Ramallah yesterday marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. (Reuters)

Joint Knesset panel approves NIS 32b. defense budget

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

The Finance and Defense ministries reached an accord on the 1998 defense budget yesterday, clearing a major hurdle towards

getting the budget through the Knesset by the end of the year, an official said yesterday.

"There was an agreement to fix the budget at NIS 32 billion, but the Defense Ministry is still seeking to have the figure updated by five percent annually," a spokesman for the Knesset said.

David Ivry, special adviser to Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, criticized the budget and said that the ministry needed an annual increase of 5% for the

next decade, Israel Radio reported.

The budget was approved by a joint committee of the Knesset Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense committees.

The Treasury won cabinet approval to cut defense spending next year, as part of efforts to rein in the total budget deficit to 2.4 percent of gross domestic product. The Defense Ministry had reportedly pushed for an additional NIS 1.5 billion to cover increased preparedness for war.

Winning numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing ticket number 058776 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 46690 won the car.

Tickets 086926, 415022, 876415, 399056, 083625, 294441, 053655 and 816894 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 07096, 47017, 09556, 29008, 81362, 06104, 53032, 65729, 04664, 35372, 72028, 96921, 75197, 75101, 10449, 63825, 20591, 15007 and 35843 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 519,527,778 and 752 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 76,21,16 and 27 won NIS 30. Tickets ending in 85 and 67 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 3 and 7 won NIS 10.

GOD HAS HIS "RED LINES" TOO but His are true and firm

A prophetic word given to Grant B. Livingstone, Shalom Israel Ministries, P.O.B. 24118, Jerusalem

The God of Israel's glory who watches over His Word, the Holy Bible, to perform it, and who recorded in it long ago that He gave to Abraham and to His seed through Yitzhak and then Jacob "all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession," but straitly commanded them, "The land shall not be sold forever, for the land is mine saith the Lord, and ye are strangers and sojourners with me" - Who warned by His servant Moses that if Israel persisted in disobeying Him, she would be scattered among all nations - Israel did and was - but Who promised by His prophet Jeremiah that "He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him as a shepherd does his flock" - has He not done exactly as His Word says, openly in the sight of all men, even in this day?

Why then do Israel's enemies, who despise My Word, rise up to supplant them? Why do they attempt to seduce My people Israel, to defy Me unto wrath, by trying to sell My land entrusted to them - trusting men and their pretensions of peace and deceitful "guarantees"? Why, like Balaam, do they keep trying to "curse whom God hath not cursed"? Why do they seek to inherit the wind, My scornful laughter, forgetting that "all the nations that forget God shall turn into hell"? Are they not "as the small dust in the balances"?

But My Word shall stand, while theirs shall be as that dust. Though Israel defy Me and be sorely punished, and her enemies be grievously punished, she shall prevail over them all; for I preserve her. And their expectations shall perish, while My peace shall be Israel's portion, and the portion of all who stand with her, says the God of Israel. For My Word is fixed and will not be bent or broken.

Why do her enemies not heed My warnings in the Scriptures? - He asks. I hold responsible to heed My warnings those that have the Scriptures, and those that have been warned by My pastors and faithful ones, who have warned of My fixed purpose of restoring My ancient people to "their own land," and to "possess their possessions."

Why do those who think their "peace" better than My true peace try to overturn the ruler of My people Israel, whom I have set to defend the integrity of My land and its peace? Why do they not see that the resistance to their folly is Mine, not his, and it is God they are fighting - as Balaam did. Why do they not see that his standing fast is the key to their own peace, and if he should fail, I will allow their enemies to bring on them the war they rightly dread?

The scriptures alluded to or cited, for confirmation and study, are (in order): Psalm 128; Jeremiah 1:12, Genesis 17:8; Leviticus 25:23, 28:23, Jeremiah 31:5, Numbers 23:5, 18, Psalm 2, Isaiah 40:15, Psalm 110:6, Matthew 5:18, Matthew 24:25, Jeremiah 23:5, all of Obadiah, Isaiah 34:9-10

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TO BENJAMIN NETANYAHU FEAR NOT, O JACOB, MY SERVANT...

IN THE HOSTILE MEDIA:

Brainwashing, a war of nerves, pressure to deliver our homeland into the hands of Arafat - out of fear of President Clinton and Secretary of State Albright.

WHAT IS CLINTON'S TRUE STATUS?

From the world's most influential weekly magazine, TIME (Nov. 24, 1997): "...Clinton has been cast as a lame duck at home - spurned by his party, insulted by his opponents, dogged by scandal every day. He has never seemed so alone. A Clinton Administration aide has complained: There are no die-hard Clinton people anymore on Capitol Hill."

AND WHAT IS THE AMERICAN CONGRESS'S TRUE POSITION, AS DISTINCT FROM THAT OF SECRETARY ALBRIGHT?

Read excerpts from a letter, signed by 13 congressmen (Oct. 9, 1997): [To] The Honorable Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State:

Does our government believe that Jewish Israelis have the right to live anywhere in the Land of Israel, or does it believe that Jewish citizens residing in a sovereign, democratic Israel are restricted to certain "acceptable" zones? By supporting a limit on new housing for Jews, and calling security actions... "provocative" in nature, you have effectively labeled Israel an outlaw state.

Americans are free to live anywhere they wish. If this is good enough for America, why not for Israel?

In a recent letter, 35 Members of Congress asked you to... unequivocally voice your support for the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and his actions to defend his fellow citizens.

You did neither. This failure leaves us the unfortunate belief that the Administration is dangerously out of touch with the wishes of average Americans.

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Former prime minister MK Shimon Peres (left) meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo yesterday. (Reuters)

PA economy focus of Peres trip

CAIRO (Reuters) — Former prime minister MK Shimon Peres met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak yesterday to suggest ways to help the Palestinian economy.

The Nobel peace laureate in October launched the private Peres Center for Peace to promote peace through projects that foster economic opportunity.

"We are interested in seeing our Palestinian neighbors doing well economically, not only administratively. We have some ideas that I

have introduced to the president and I hope we can work together in order to implement," Peres told reporters after the meeting.

"Peace moves on two legs: an economic leg and a political leg. While the political leg is basically in the hands of the government, the economic leg is open to be moved by different forces," he said.

Peres said he did not envision putting economic pressure on Israel's government, which he said international support for

Palestinians could do, but rather "mobilizing financial means by introducing industries, adopting proper plans, with the full consent of the Palestinians, Mr. Arafat, without the objection of the Israeli government and with the support of the Europeans and the Americans."

"We can't allow all the pressure both economic and political to be on the shoulders of Arafat. We would like to help at least in the economic sector," he added.

IAF jets fly long-range training sorties in Turkey

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israeli fighter jets have carried out 120 sorties in Turkey this year, many of them practice for long-range missions, since Israeli air space is so limited. Israeli CH-53 transport helicopters have also recorded over 120 sorties from another Turkish Air Force base, a senior defense official said in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Turkey has come under criticism by Moslem countries for such cooperation. On Wednesday President Suleyman Demirel withdrew from a global Islamic summit in Tehran to avoid facing additional criticism of his country's ties with Israel. He defended his country's military accord with Israel, saying the agreement is bilateral and does not pose a threat to any third country.

The defense official said that IAF helicopter pilots have become familiar with the Turkish terrain, which helped them to respond quickly to a Turkish request last July to help put out a fire at the country's main munitions plant.

This week, Israel was put on the short list for supplying ammunition to Turkey, whose bomb-production facility was seriously damaged in the fire. The

announcement coincidentally came during Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's visit, which he said opened the door for many lucrative defense contracts.

Israel and Turkey signed a defense cooperation agreement in 1996 which allows pilots from both countries to train in each other's country. The IAF desperately lacks air space and its training areas are being restricted more and more. Turkey can provide long-distance training grounds. For their part, Turkish pilots are about to enhance their flight training with advanced Israeli simulators and technology.

Meanwhile, a senior officer yesterday dismissed a report in London's *Foreign Report* that the IAF will permanently station jets in Turkey.

In Ankara, Turkish military headquarters announced that the joint naval maneuvers among Israel, Turkey, and the United States is to be held January 5-9. The maneuvers, dubbed "Reliant Mermaid," were previously scheduled for October and then November.

"The aim of the exercises is to develop joint training for sea-air search and rescue operations among the three nations' fleets,"

an army statement said. Defense officials in Tel Aviv would only confirm that the exercise is to be held at the beginning of January.

Demir Metehan adds from Ankara:

The semi-annual strategic talks between Turkey and Israel are to be held in Ankara on December 22. Turkish and Israeli defense sources said. The talks, the third since the 1996 military alliance was formed, are aimed at furthering an evaluation of joint threats and responses to them as well as numerous defense industry issues. Deputy Chief of General Staff Gen. Cevik Bir will lead the Turkish delegation, while David Ivry, Mordechai's special adviser, will head the Israeli delegation.

Turkish defense sources said the talks will focus on the increasing ballistic missile threat from Iran and Syria.

Meanwhile, the busy political traffic between Israel and Turkey is intensifying day by day. Turkish Defense Minister Undersecretary Lt. Gen. Tuncer Kilinc is to visit Israel on December 21 to discuss details of the F-4 modernization agreement that Ankara signed with Israel. Turkish Land Forces Commander Gen. Huseyin Kivrikoglu is to visit in January.

OK planned for Farrakhan visit

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader whose comments about Jews and Judaism have deeply offended US Jews, evidently will be admitted to Israel, but will not be allowed to meet with any government leaders.

Government officials indicated yesterday that a final decision has not been reached on the projected visit, with one saying only "there is a tendency to let him, but not to meet with him."

Farrakhan, who has been on a world tour for the past two months, is expected to arrive here in mid-January as the guest of Jerusalem's Islamic leaders. He conveyed his desire to see

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during his stay, but the officials said this will be out of the question "unless he retracts" the offensive remarks he made about Jews, Jewry and Judaism.

Eighteen years ago, Rev. Jesse Jackson was refused a meeting with Menachem Begin during a visit here. He, too, had made derogatory statements about Jews, but they were much less vitriolic than Farrakhan's.

Deliberations are continuing at the Foreign Ministry about the Farrakhan visit and no final decisions have been made, officials said.

Liat Collins adds: MK Ophir Pines (Labor) has written to Foreign Minister David Levy demanding that Farrakhan

be given no official treatment during his planned visit to Israel.

"Farrakhan's past is full of anti-semitic and racist statements and incitement against the Jews, Judaism and other groups," wrote Pines. "Israel as a democratic state cannot and should not stop Farrakhan from entering the country but he should be dealt with as a regular tourist on a visit. Any form of legitimacy given him by special meetings or in any other manner will cause serious harm to Israel and its image."

"If Farrakhan is truly interested in peace and conciliation he must first take back the inflammatory rhetoric in which he excels, and prove his willingness to make a real reconciliation with our people."

Monitoring panel blames Israel for deaths

NAKOURA (AP) — A five-nation monitoring group yesterday held Israel responsible for bombings that killed three Lebanese civilians on the edge of the security zone in southern Lebanon.

The committee had been meeting since Tuesday in the Lebanese coastal town of Nakoura over the Lebanese complaint about the bomb explosions last Friday. It

also considered a second complaint about the expulsion of a Lebanese-American citizen from Israeli-held territory that day.

Hizbullah accused the IDF of planting the bombs in a ravine near the village of Majdal Siliim, where a shepherd and two body shop workers were killed.

At the end of their meeting, representatives from the United

States, France, Lebanon, Israel, and Syria issued a statement, saying the group "expressed its regret" at the casualties.

"The group considered that Israel and those cooperating with it are responsible for the manner in which their explosive devices are utilized," said the statement.

It reiterated a call for "all necessary measures" in future to avoid

incidents that could hurt civilians "in areas where they may pass in the course of their normal activities."

On the other complaint over the expulsion of Lebanese-American Nabil Baydoun, 44, from Detroit, the monitoring group deferred the matter for discussion through diplomatic channels, "with a view to reaching a diplomatic solution."



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AIDS patients demand life-saving drugs

By Jerusalem Post Staff and Jim

Ten AIDS patients yesterday petitioned the Tel Aviv District Labor Court for an injunction against the government and health funds, demanding they supply the anti-AIDS "cocktail" of drugs that can keep them alive.

The petitioners' lawyer, Orna Lynn, said all the health funds have gradually reduced the multiple-drug treatments due to budgetary constraints of the National Health Insurance Law.

The petition stated that if the proper drug treatment is not restored, this amounts to a death sentence for such patients, carried out through further suffering brought on by additional diseases.

The cabinet on Sunday is to discuss Health Minister Yehoshua Matza's request that the Treasury allocate NIS 150 million to supply those drugs and others not included in the basket of health services. Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday issued a statement in support of the cabinet discussion, and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein made a similar statement on Israel Radio.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday that if Matza wants to add medicines to the basket of health services, he must find an alternative source of funds, according to spokesman Esti Applebaum.

The problem for Neeman in granting extra funding is that the state budget will not remain with-

in the government target of 2.4% of gross domestic product, she said. If the Health Ministry

replaces non-medical expenditures with increased spending on medicines then this is fine, she

said. On Monday evening, Neeman is scheduled to meet coalition

Teenage cancer patient challenges the system

By HERB KEINON

A 17-year-old Ramat Gan girl who is suffering from leukemia has overnight put a very human face on a dry budgetary issue that threatens to take vital drugs away from cancer, AIDS, and schizophrenia patients.

Before Tal Levy and 11 other children and youth suffering from cancer met with President Ezer Weizman on Tuesday, the issue over the drugs - whether the state should continue to fund them and where the money would come from - was low down on the public agenda. Levy thrust it to the top by her simple, dignified appeal to the president.

"I say to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and those who take medication away from us because of money, that it is heartless. I am afraid to die," she said in a widely broadcast meeting. "How can people be so closed and look at budget books when sick children are fighting for their lives? I am not at fault that this happened to me," said Levy, an 11th grader who fell ill some four months ago.

At issue are some NIS 150 million needed to fund the drugs, which cost hundreds and even thousands of dollars per dose. The Health Ministry says that without a special allocation, it cannot fund the medication, while the Treasury says that the health funds should cut other expenses

to fund the drugs.

And in the middle of this bureaucratic wrangle are patients like Levy, who last week were told that their drugs would be cut off because of huge deficits in their health fund.

"I think it is heartless to threaten people who are the weakest - cancer patients, and mothers of small children who are struggling with them - over a budgetary issue," Levy said last night from her hospital bed at the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva.

Levy, who has become the symbol of this new struggle, said it is "unfortunate" that a struggle for the drugs is even necessary. "We shouldn't have to fight for this," she said. "This is something we should get as a given. What are we asking for but the bare minimum - the thing that allows us to live." Levy said she realizes cancer patients in need of the drug are being used by the Health Ministry to apply pressure on the Treasury. "Of course they are using us, they themselves know they are using us," she said. "They are taking the most difficult cases, and - through us - applying pressure."

It is not positive that the Health Minister chose us to threaten and get what he wants," Levy said. "We are in the middle; we are the ball. Why do we get treated like this? Haven't we gone through enough already?"



Tal Levy (Gaeli Hersh)

Poll: Tobacco tax could pay for health costs

By JUDY SEGEL

Fully 83 percent of the general public - and 60% of smokers - would prefer that extra budget for the health system be supplied by raising tobacco taxes rather than having health funds charge patients more. These were among the results of an as-yet-unpublished survey by the Adanim Institute for the occupational health unit of the Health Ministry.

The survey, conducted among a representative sample of 502 Israelis over the age of 18, found that only 10% of the general public prefers allowing fees for health services to be increased, while the figure was double that among smokers. Surprisingly, most of the smokers were willing to pay extra for health costs themselves, leaving non-smokers alone.

Amos Hansner, legal adviser to the Public Forum for the

Prevention of Smoking, said yesterday that since such a policy would be well accepted by the public, he would "like to know why tobacco taxes aren't being raised" to help cover deficits in the health system. He noted that Britain, Denmark, and Ireland charge \$4 for a pack of cigarettes, including high taxes, while in Israel, local brands go for \$1.70 or lower and imports for \$2.50 to \$3 a pack.

European countries hiked taxes without fearing it would encourage tobacco smuggling, he said. Higher tobacco taxes have the added benefit of reducing the number of smokers, and especially of deterring young people from starting the habit.

A Treasury spokesman, however, said that every time the Treasury hikes tobacco taxes, "smuggling increases and revenue from tobacco declines."

Smoke-free flights

By JUDY SEGEL

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy has announced that by April 1, most incoming and outgoing flights will be completely smoke free. Levy said he had won the acceptance of El Al and Arkia, along with most foreign airlines operating here, to bar smoking on all flights up to five hours long. These venues would not include Africa and the Far East.

El Al and Arkia had long opposed one-sided rules that would prohibit

smoking only on their flights, fearing that smokers would prefer its foreign competitors.

Levy said that Israel would also join the international agreement that bars smoking on all direct flights to and from North America and Canada starting April 1. Israel is the fourth country to join this agreement.

The only foreign companies operating here that have so far not volunteered to prohibit smoking are KLM (Holland), Iberia (Spain), and Taron (Romania).

Prime minister slams article on Sara as 'evil'

By ALLISON KAPLAN SOMMER

Once again, an unflattering media spotlight has been focused on Sara Netanyahu, in anticipation of today's nine-page expose on her by *Yediot Aharanot*.

The article relates a long list of anecdotes of humiliations suffered by state employees at the hands of the prime minister's wife; unprecedented demands she made at taxpayers expense, such as personal offices near those of her husband, two secretaries and a media adviser; fits of temper in public settings and at home, relentless jealousy of women working with her husband, and requesting and receiving gifts beyond what is legally permitted to public figures.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, arriving last night at Beit Hahayal in Tel Aviv, for an event at which scholarships in honor of his late brother Yoni were awarded, said: "Over the past year and a half, my wife and I, and even our children, have been subject to humiliations and insults that are unprecedented in the history of the state."

He said that this latest article represented a new degree of "loathsomeness and evil" that "violated all boundaries."

He then hustled his wife off to the event. Sara Netanyahu refused to comment.

Two of the sources of the article stepped forward yesterday to confirm the accuracy of the stories in which they figured. One, Naomi Igus, who was Sara Netanyahu's secretary until she was fired two weeks ago, told Channel 2 that the issues explored in the story were not pointless gossip. She said that Netanyahu's behavior, and the efforts of the Prime Minister's Office staffers to conceal it from the public, were issues "for the state comptroller to investigate."

A veteran housekeeper at the

prime minister's residence, Rachel Ya'acov, 60, confirmed that Netanyahu shouted at her and threw shoes at her after she had polished and stored the shoes incorrectly.

"If the prime minister saw what you did to his shoes, he would slaughter you!" Netanyahu reportedly cried.

The airwaves were abuzz yesterday with reactions to the article.

Numerous callers to radio talk shows defended Netanyahu, and said that the article was the continuation of a media vendetta against the prime minister and a violation of the couple's privacy. Many callers pointed out that Leah Rabin had been similarly vilified when her husband was prime minister.

However, far from expressing empathy with Netanyahu following the media assault, Leah Rabin, widow of the slain Yitzhak Rabin, joined the chorus of criticism, calling Netanyahu's behavior as going "beyond the accepted norms." Political figures largely remained silent. Labor MK Ephraim Oshaya proposed that the job of the prime minister's wife be

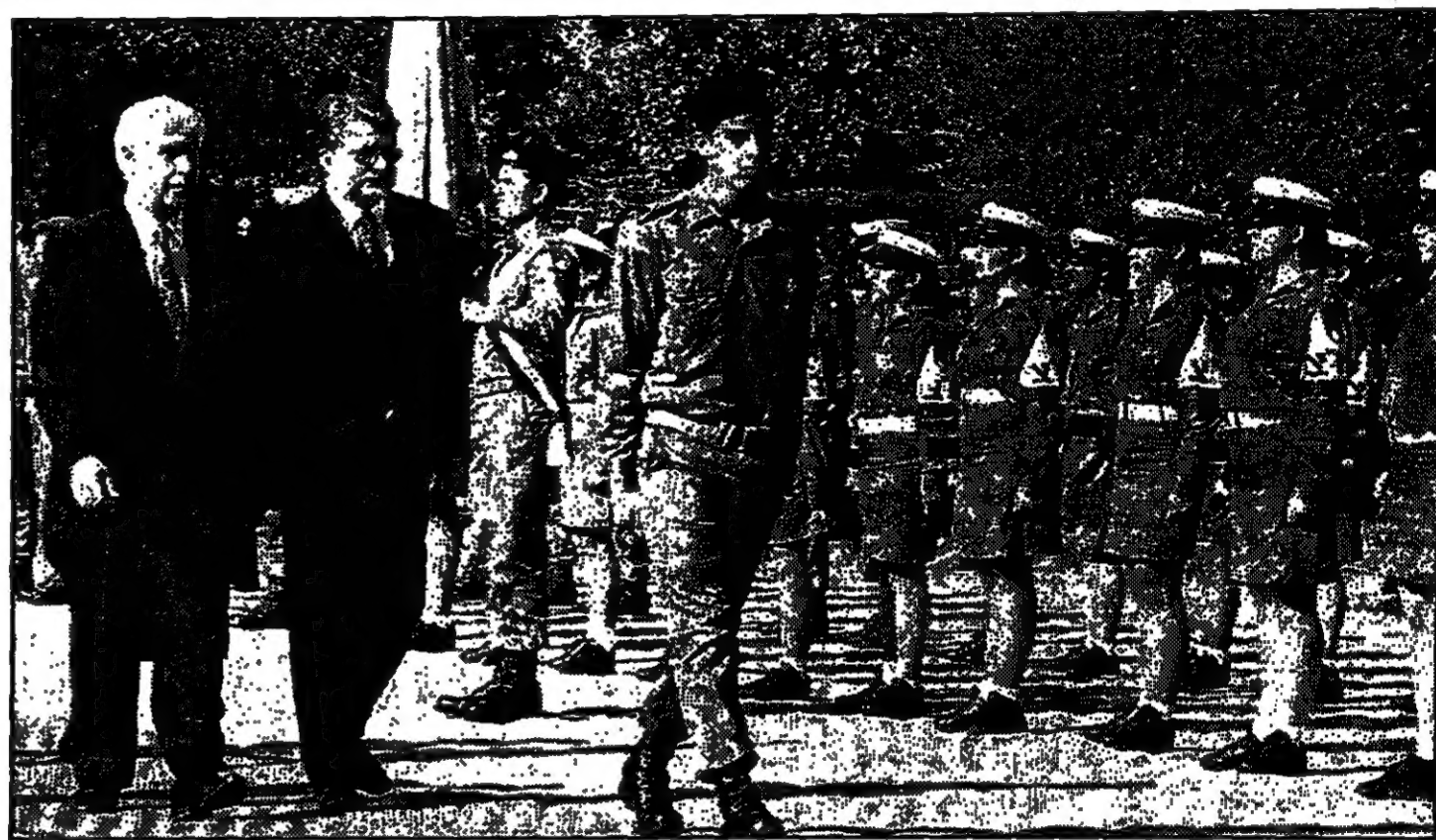
given official status with a defined list of privileges and limitations. "That way we can avoid such scandals," he said.

MK Ophir Pines (Labor) plans to submit an urgent motion to the Knesset agenda which says: "The effect of Mrs. Netanyahu's extraordinary behavior on husband's functioning should be checked."

The Prime Minister's Office issued a strongly-worded reaction that ran alongside the *Yediot* article, denying several of its charges, calling the story "unfair" and expressing regret that "the wave of demonization and personal attacks directed at the prime minister's wife had reached such proportions."

"Any person interested in getting revenge against Mrs. Netanyahu as a result of personal frustration, can do this with full knowledge that their claims will get wide coverage in the media. In this way, any public figure becomes a hostage to anyone who has ever worked with them or was connected to them in any way."

Liat Collins contributed to this report.



First Croatian ambassador

Dr. Srjejan Berkovic (second from left), the first Croatian ambassador here, reviews an honor guard in Jerusalem yesterday, before presenting his credentials to President Ezer Weizman. At left is the Foreign Ministry's chief of protocol, Sammy Tsvet. (Gaeli Hersh)

'That's Mrs. Netanyahu to you'

The following are summaries from the *Yediot Aharanot* piece on Sara Netanyahu. The majority of the items are not attributed to named sources.

Sara Netanyahu takes whatever gifts she was able. Troubled by the fact that security considerations prevented accepting a bottle of wine, she suggested that her staffers taste the wine to make sure it wasn't poisoned.

She insisted on getting a two-room office suite within the Prime Minister's Office with two secretaries - who are not officially supposed to fill such a job - despite the fact that she rarely sits in the office.

Instead she peppers her secretaries with household errands, clipping and saving any mention of her in the press, and keeping track

of her husband's schedule and making sure that she is included in as many events as possible.

She insists that she be called "Mrs. Netanyahu" and not "Sara" by subordinates, even by those with whom she works closely (The article is entitled, "That's Mrs. Netanyahu to you").

Although she sits as the chairwoman of "Hand in Hand," an organization that helps disadvantaged children, and demanded a similarly luxurious suite, she rarely takes part in the organization's day-to-day activities, and her days, in addition to caring for her children, are largely taken up with personal appointments, such as her daily visit by her hairdresser, and regular visits from her personal trainer and tailor. Her main interest in the organization is the

opportunity to sponsor glittering evening charity events.

She is exceedingly suspicious of any contact her husband has with women, professional or otherwise, and became furious in the course of a television program, when singer Ofra Haza parted her husband.

When the prime minister tried to calm her, Netanyahu cried, "Leave me alone or I'll complain to the police that you are beating me."

She has alienated not only old friends of the prime minister, but his daughter by his first marriage as well. Two years ago, she asked his daughter, Noa, not to call him "Dad" in front of her sons, because "they don't know they have a sister."

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Taxi drivers block TA streets

By HAIM SHAPIRO

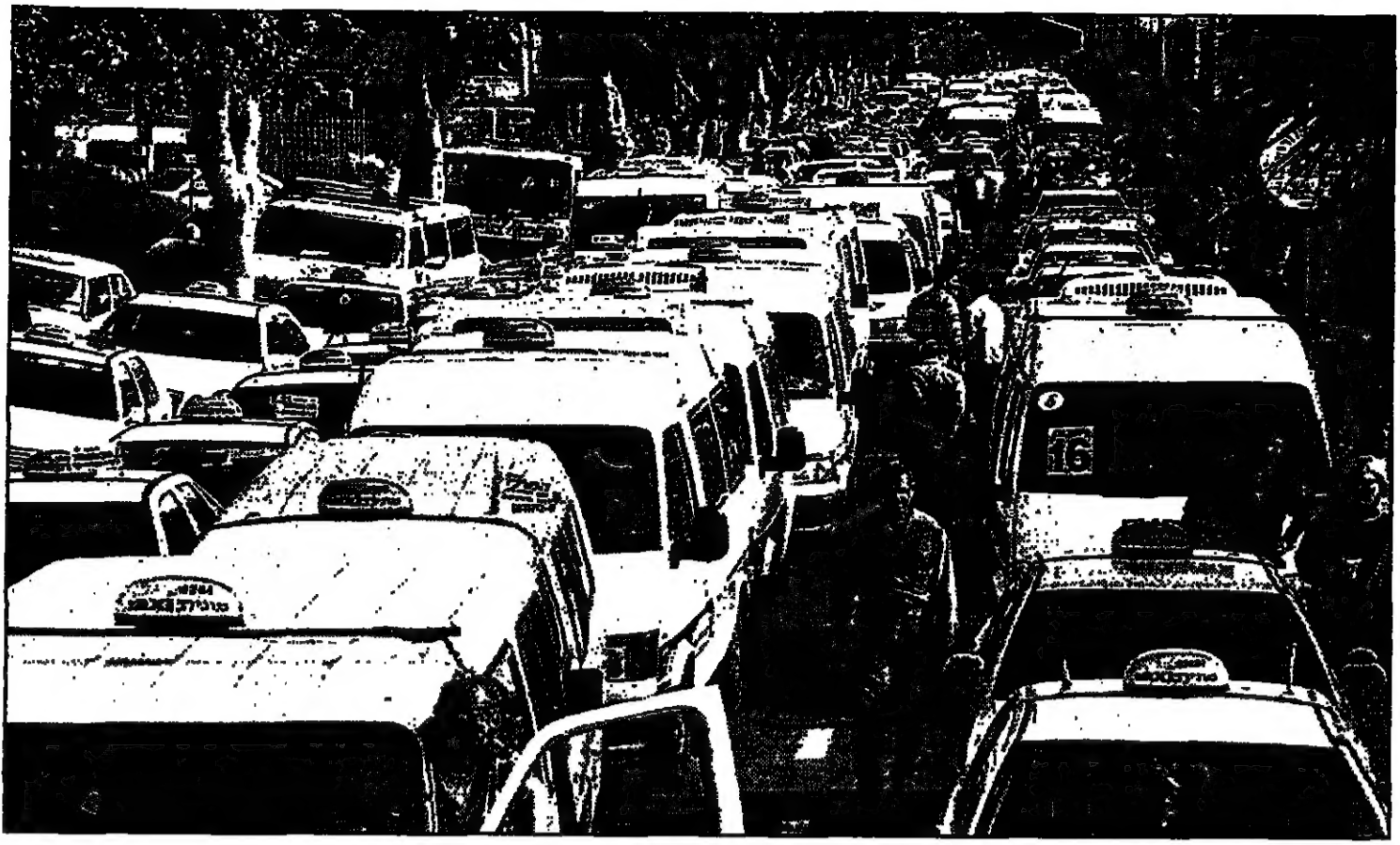
Dozens of taxi drivers blocked traffic in Tel Aviv yesterday morning to protest Transport Ministry plans to issue unlimited numbers of taxi permits, but Yossi, who for the past nine years has rented a taxi permit from its owner, was not among them.

The taxi drivers blocked major intersections leading into the city, tying up traffic on Derech Namur, Rehov Ibn-Gvirol, and Rehov Hamasger. Other taxis formed a cavalcade, interfering with traffic from Petah Tikva into the city. Later they gathered at the Histadrut headquarters on Rehov Arlosoroff, stopping traffic in both directions. The police gave out tickets and confiscated drivers' licenses.

However Yossi, who said he was afraid to give his real name for fear that other drivers would sabotage his car, said that the Transport Ministry is moving in the right direction, even if he has some criticism about the way it is going about it. Yossi owns his own taxi, pays all the fees and taxes, but he also pays \$600 a month to "rent" a taxi permit.

He must pay the \$600 in advance, every month, whether he works or not. If he is sick or wants to take a vacation, he must find another driver to take over for him. He has been renting a permit for the past nine years, he says. In all other ways, he is a taxi driver. He has the special taxi driver's license, obtained after taking a special driving course and passing a special test.

Three months ago, the ministry allocated 2,500 permits in a lottery, for NIS 100,000 apiece. He



More than 5,000 taxis block a main road in Tel Aviv yesterday, as protests against the government's plan to issue more taxi licenses continued.

would have jumped at the chance, but he didn't win, he said.

"As it is, I pay our \$7,200 a year, not including taxes or depreciation on my car," he said.

Now the ministry is selling permits to anyone who wants one,

for NIS 195,000, with a reduced price of NIS 130,000 for drivers with at least four years of experience.

In reaction to the taxi drivers' action, Transport Ministry Director-General Nahum Langental said that the Taxi

Drivers Association had agreed to the move, then internal squabbles caused it to backtrack. Langental said that the system would end the virtual servitude of hired taxi drivers. For the first time, he said, they would be able to acquire permits.

That's good, Yossi said, but he is concerned that non-drivers can still buy permits and rent them out. If the ministry really wanted to clean up the industry, he said, it would sell the permits only to drivers, and allow them to pay in installments.

Hadassah D-G Penchas plans to step down

By JUDY SIEGEL

Prof. Shmuel Penchas, the powerful director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization for the past 17 years, has told its board of directors that he will not stand for another term when this one ends in 14 months. His executive committee will soon establish a search committee for another doctor to fill the coveted post.

Numerous HMO administrators and active physicians inside Hadassah's two university hospitals will undoubtedly vie for the director-general's position, as well as outsiders from other hospitals. One natural candidate, according to insiders, is Dr. Avi Yisraeli, currently Penchas's deputy.

Penchas was born in Bucharest in 1939, and his family came here the following year. He not only has a medical degree from the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School and specialized in

internal medicine, but also earned a diploma in electrical engineering at the Technion, studied ergonomics and mechanical engineering at London University, and was board certified in medical administration by the Health Ministry.

Penchas was a member of many professional bodies, including the Netanyahu State Judicial Commission of Inquiry into the health system, whose recommendations ultimately brought about the National Health Insurance Law.

Board of directors chairman Aharon Fogel sent a letter to hospital staffers on Wednesday, informing them of Penchas's decision and noting that the outgoing director-general "intends to continue as a Hadassah staffer."

HMO, which is currently implementing a painful recovery program, has begun preparing a long-term strategic plan with the help of the board, external advisers and senior Hadassah staffers.



Shmuel Penchas

School trips routinely in violation of new regulations

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Nighttime rappelling and outings without armed guards or medicals were just a few of the violations of school trip procedures discovered by Education Ministry inspectors during October and November, despite stricter rules adapted after the Naharayim tragedy in March, in which seven Beit Shemesh schoolgirls were killed by a Jordanian soldier during an outing.

According to the Education Ministry spokeswoman, the new Trips Authority, established following the findings of the Pressler Commission and an internal ministry investigation into the Naharayim affair and school trip procedures in general, ran a check on 650 school trips that took place during October and November.

Out of these, some 35-40 of the

trips were found to have violated standing regulations regarding such outings. In another case, the pupils engaged in rappelling at night, which is forbidden. In several cases, the inspectors halted the trips on the spot and sent the pupils home. Letters were sent to the district supervisors of the schools responsible for the violations, and disciplinary action is expected to be taken against the principals.

Meanwhile, the Education Ministry is reportedly considering cancelling its funding of those youth movements who participate in a scheduled bicycle trip to Jordan during Hanukkah vacation.

Meanwhile, the Secondary School Teachers Association announced yesterday that they will renew sanctions as of next Wednesday if no agreement is reached by then on payment for

teachers accompanying school trips and on principals' salaries.

The sanctions include refusing to accompany school trips. They will also not permit social and cultural activities to take place within the schools beyond normal school hours.

Knesset Education Committee Chairman MK Emanuel Zissman said earlier this week that the Finance Ministry would be to blame if the teachers renew the sanctions.

The teachers had called off the sanctions last month for three weeks at the committee's request. However, they rejected the Finance Ministry's suggestion to pay them NIS 106 per day spent accompanying pupils on school trips. The teachers are seeking an hourly wage for this work, and are supported in their demands by the Knesset Education Committee.

Druse agree on spiritual leader - after 3 years

By HAIM SHAPIRO

After three years of disputes within Israel's Druse community over who should serve as its spiritual head, the factions yesterday signed an agreement whereby Muwafak Tarif, grandson of the late Druse leader Sheikh Amin Tarif, would hold the post for five years.

The community celebrated the agreement with festivities at al-Kadir, near Acre, the site which they consider to be the resting place of the prophet Elijah. According to the agreement, the 60-person Druse Religious

Council is to be augmented by another 15 members, all part of the faction which had opposed Tarif, headed by former Likud MK Assad Assad.

In addition, there is to be a 10-member council to administer the Druse holy places, al-Kadir and Nebi Shueb, the tomb of Jethro, father-in-law of Moses. The members of this council are to be divided equally between the two factions, with Tarif as its head.

Finally, both sides are to cancel the many legal proceedings started and police complaints lodged against their opponents during the three-year dispute.

Regional authorities demand NIS 40m.

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Regional authority leaders are threatening to halt the busing of pupils to school if the Education Ministry does not transfer money earmarked for this purpose to them.

Shmuel Rifman, chairman of the Union of Regional Authorities, said yesterday he does not understand why NIS 40 million, which he said the Knesset Finance Committee had not completed procedures to transfer the money to the ministry, but that the matter should be cleared up "in a matter of days."

Greenpeace: Israel must cut CO2 emissions

By LIAT COLLINS

Members of Greenpeace here are calling on Israel to voluntarily adopt tougher standards on carbon dioxide emissions, although the Kyoto Accord on global warming signed yesterday does not obligate it to do so.

The agreement requires industrially developed countries to reduce CO2 emissions but does not apply to developing countries. "It is ridiculous that Israel is not considered an industrial country under this agreement," said Ofer Ben-Dov of Greenpeace's Mediterranean

Office. "We call on Israel of its own free will to adopt the requirement of European Union countries to reduce CO2 emissions by eight percent by 2010."

Yitzhak Goren, the Environment Ministry's representative at the conference, said he was "satisfied with the agreement."

"It was not the best that could have been achieved," he said, "but it's a breakthrough and leads the way for tougher standards in the future."

He said he also believes Israel should try to reduce emissions, but did not give a suggested figure.

NEWS

in brief

Tiberias yeshiva wins battle with neighbor

Kochava Dehan, who found herself involved in a conflict with a yeshiva which was established next door to her Tiberias home, said yesterday that she has decided to sell the house after police and municipal officials made clear to her that they did not intend to protect her.

Dehan's home was firebombed on Tuesday night. Earlier, the family car had been torched, causing their heating fuel tank to explode. Before that, a student at the yeshiva had smashed a glass of coffee into her husband's face.

Yesterday, she said, the mayor, the deputy mayor, and the local police chief told her that the yeshiva, which occupies a municipally-owned building, would not be moved. They told her, she said, that she would have to decide how to get along.

Haim Shapiro

Trial opens of suspects in attempted murder

The trial of the three men suspected of trying to murder gangland figure Manny Aslan in Tel Aviv in September opened yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court. Nahman Cohen, Ben Suthi, and Sharon Kane are also charged with soliciting a murder, conspiracy to commit a crime, and illegal weapons possession.

The murder was foiled when police arrested two hit men - Sharon Makatan and his relative, a minor, waiting near Aslan's restaurant in the Hatikva neighborhood.

Police suspect that all those involved were involved with Ze'ev Rosenzweig, a foe of the Aslan family, but they have not been able to gather enough evidence to indict him.

Itim

Wilk takes over police next week

Former Jerusalem district commander Yehuda Wilk will return to the force next week to take over as inspector-general from Assaf Hefetz. Wilk said yesterday that he plans to take immediate steps to combat the scourge of car thefts. Most of the stolen cars are believed to end up in areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

Israel has submitted 10 more extradition requests to the PA for criminal suspects, including those wanted for car theft, the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday. The PA has so far refused to hand over any of the suspects. An additional 34 extradition requests for terror suspects have also been ignored.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Court orders gov't to explain lack of tender

The High Court of Justice yesterday ordered the government and Education Minister Zevulun Hammer to explain within 30 days why the decision not to issue a tender for the post of head of Educational Television has not been cancelled. The court was acting on a petition by MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui).

Itim

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Blair, Adams hold historic meeting

By ROSEMARY BENNETT

LONDON (Reuters) — Gerry Adams and other Sinn Féin leaders emerged from historic talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday saying they were hopeful the peace process in Northern Ireland could make progress.

Adams arrived yesterday for historic talks at Prime Minister Tony Blair's residence saying he wanted to forge new ties between Britain and Ireland.

"I think if people reflect on the role of Britain in our affairs over the centuries until now, they will conclude that it has been marked by great grief — and pain sometimes here on this island as well... We want to see it ending," Adams told reporters.

Noisy protesters outnumbered Sinn Féin supporters as Adams arrived 15 minutes early for the talks — the first Irish Catholic republican leader for 76 years to cross the threshold of 10, Downing Street.

"We are trying to develop a new era and a new relationship and we are very conscious that an awful lot of people are depending upon us to play our role... in building new ties between the people of Britain and Ireland," he said.

Blair said earlier he was under no illusions about Sinn Féin, the banned Irish Republican Army's political wing, but was willing to meet its leaders for the sake of peace in Northern Ireland.

"He is prepared to take risks for peace and he believes the prospects are better than they have been for a generation," Blair's official spokesman told reporters.

The symbolically important meeting is a reward for a five-

month-old truce by IRA guerrillas that has won Sinn Féin a seat at political talks on the future of Northern Ireland, riven by violence for much of the last 30 years.

Leaders of Northern Ireland's Protestant majority, who fear the government may cave in to republican demands for a united Ireland and an end to British rule of the north, condemned the meeting as premature.

Blair's spokesman said the prime minister would tell his critics he had a duty to try to bring stability to Northern Ireland, just as he would with any part of the United Kingdom that had been rocked by violence.

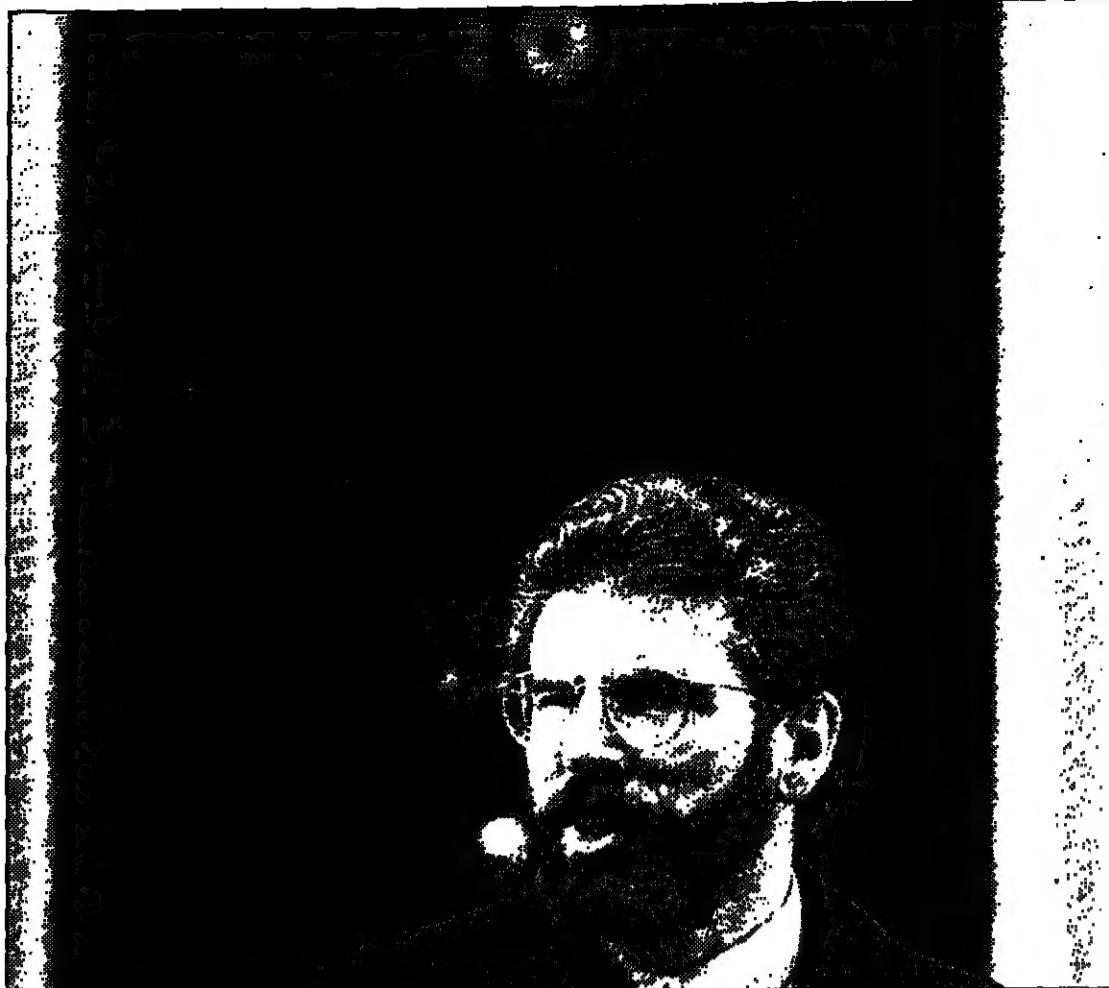
"The prime minister is under no illusions about the nature of Sinn Féin but they are in the talks... Mr Adams and his colleagues will be treated in the same way as other parties in the talks," the spokesman said.

Although Adams had to make do without a doorstep handshake with Blair, who was careful not to hand Adams a propaganda coup, the meeting is likely to lend new legitimacy to a movement linked to republican guerrillas who twice tried to kill British premiers.

One of the attacks was at 10, Downing Street itself.

Then prime minister John Major and his ministers — sitting in the same cabinet room where Blair was receiving Adams — escaped unscathed when the IRA fired mortar bombs at the house in 1991.

Northern Ireland is enjoying a fragile peace after more than a quarter century of sectarian conflict that claimed 3,200 lives.



Sinn Féin President Gerry Adams outside 10 Downing Street yesterday before his meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair. (AP)

Adams earlier stressed the talks would not provide a ready-made formula to cement the peace but said he would press Blair for assurances that all parties would focus on future prospects rather

than past animosities. For his part, Blair intended to warn Sinn Féin that it would be thrown out of the all-party talks taking place in Belfast if the IRA reverted to violence.

But his spokesman said he would also explain that, given goodwill on all sides, it was realistic to believe a political settlement could be reached by the deadline he has set of next May.

Islamic Conference slams Israel

By ASHRAF FOUAD

TEHERAN (Reuters) — Moslem leaders blasted Israel at an Islamic summit that ended yesterday and condemned terrorism in the name

of Islam. But their Teheran Declaration, which denounced Israel for its "expansionist policies" and "state terrorism," made no mention of the Middle-East peace process.

The omission was a nod to host Iran, which has long decried the peace process as unjust to Palestinians. It also reflected Arab and Moslem frustration at what is seen as Washington's inability or unwillingness to change Israel's stance.

Leaders of the 55-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) declared their "resolve and determination to regain the Holy City of Al-Quds [Jerusalem] and al-Aqsa mosque and to restore the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people."

But the conference's final hours were marred by wrangling over the venue of the next summit, the need for a foreign ministers' meeting in March and the wording of a reference to Iran's hard-line supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The disputes delayed the closing ceremony by more than four hours. Iranian President Mohammed Khatami, the undisputed star of the three-day summit, said in a closing address issued to the media he was delighted that "significant resolutions decisively condemning the Zionist regime for its policies were adopted."

The declaration condemned terrorism, "while distinguishing terrorism from the struggle of peoples against colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation."

It said the killing of innocents was "forbidden in Islam" and urged the international community to "deny asylum to terrorists, assist in bringing them to justice" and take action to dismantle support networks for such groups.

Egypt has accused Britain and Afghanistan of sheltering Moslem militants sentenced by its courts.

Iran, using the summit to prove the failure of US attempts to isolate it, kept up its drive to mend fences with former Arab foes.

Khatami held a 25-minute meeting with Iraqi Deputy President Taha Yassin Ramadan, in the highest-level contact since the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Khatami ditched protocol by visiting Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah in his conference chambers, in another sign of a thaw between Shi'ite Moslem Iran and the Sunni Moslem monarchy. It was their second private meeting during the summit.

The summit urged Moslem states to sever military ties with Israel and respect Iraq's territorial integrity. Two Turkish-sponsored resolutions on Syria's alleged support for rebels and Greece's treatment of its Turkish minority were blocked.

The stone setting for MANFRED MOISE 57

will take place on Thursday,
December 18, 1997 (19 Kislev 5758) at 3 p.m.
at Har Hamenuhot, Givat Shaul, Jerusalem
(Har Tamir, Section 36).
We will meet at the main car park at 2:45 p.m.

The Family

Alexandra sadly announces that her mother NAOMI TEASDALE passed away peacefully at home.

The funeral will take place today at 2 p.m.
at the Kibbutz Nachshon Cemetery

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of IRVING BERNSTEIN

Former Executive Vice-Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal
Devoted messenger for Israel and
the well-being of Jews worldwide
He will be sorely missed by all his lifelong friends
and colleagues in Israel

The United Israel Office



We join with Clal Yisrael in mourning the death of

IRVING BERNSTEIN

a lifelong devoted servant of the Jewish people and member of the
Jewish Agency Board of Governors.

May his family be comforted among the mourners of Zion.

Charles Goodman
Chairman
JAFI Board of Governors

Avraham Burg
Chairman
JAFI Executive

Shoshana Cardin
Chairman
United Israel Appeal Inc.

Land without a people

If God intended Aboriginals to own land, he wouldn't have invented white men.

"Down under" is the jocular name for Australia. Recently it has applied equally well to the level of political debate in the country — and to the standing of its conservative government.

Australia is the New World we all love to love. After America, it became the last new frontier. Despite the sophistication of beautiful Sydney, it still retains the image of a vast wilderness being tamed by rugged, hard-working, hard-living individualists.

Twenty-five years ago, on my first visit there, a group of us used to drive to the outskirts of Darwin — the tropical town on the northwest coast — to take photographs of the only signpost in the area. One arm said "Darwin — 1 mile," the other said "Alice Springs — 950." The recent excellent movie *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, about the adventures of a campy gay theater troupe in the outback, showed an Australia where attitudes appeared to have changed drastically, but the landscape remains master.

Blind roosters

If you were an Aboriginal, the preceding few paragraphs would have made you very angry. It's a white man's romantic view of his occupied land — a land where nature should be everything and man nothing but an awe-filled guest of the gods for the short span between the dream time of non-existence and the dream time of hereafter.

Who owns that land has again become the center of an angry and racist debate that has rattled the government of John Howard. The sins of colonialism against the native people are still coming back to roost.

The injustice may have been blind at the time, but now a demand for justice is forcing everyone to open their eyes. Most Australians would rather not see at what price their comfortable way of life has been bought.

There is no such debate in Tasmania — there they solved the "problem" at the outset by systematically exterminating the entire native population until the island was "abandoned." But Australians in general resent outsiders sticking their noses into Aussie business, almost as much as the Aboriginals resent the rampages of the white man.

A couple of weeks ago, Hugh Kerr, a British member of the European parliament, lambasted Australia over its treatment of the Aboriginals.

He ended up at the losing end of the very sharp tongue of Australia's deputy prime minister Tim Fischer, who said: "I will listen to the Europeans when the Sami have a right to claim three-quarters of

Scandinavia, and the gypsies three-quarters of France, Czechoslovakia or Hungary."

History as a sweater

Here we have one of those endless circular debates on who was where first. This is a ludicrous debate which deserves an academic thesis entitled "History as a Sweater," so we can decide which is the best thread to pull to unravel the entire garment — maybe all the way back to the very first 500 humans the scientists now tell us walked out of Africa 140,000 years ago to start it all.

John Howard is merely the latest at this end of the evolutionary chain to put his foot in it. Early this month he threatened to have parliament dissolved and call a general election if he could not get agreement for a law to "protect outback farmers from Aboriginal land claims."

The Senate struck down the bill, but the race cat was out of the bag.

The politicians managed to dress the Aboriginals in war paint and portray them as massing on the hilltops in their millions to sweep down on the wives and daughters of honest farmers and miners. Once again, victims (1.5 percent of the population) have somehow transmuted into a national threat. "We don't intend to be morally intimidated," said Howard, in one of those double-edged idiocies such confrontations engender.

Pastoral sympathy

The dispute is an old one, of course, but until modern times the Aboriginals had no way of fighting by the white man's rules and courts and had no white liberal allies to teach them. Last December the High Court had to make a ruling on the status of so-called pastoral leases. These were first granted in the 1880s to allow white farmers to settle on vast farms as big as Belgium. These were ancestral lands of the Aboriginals. Naturally, they were not consulted.

The legal concept of "native land" arose only five years ago, allowing Aboriginals to file claims. Another court ruling then said native title and pastoral leases could coexist on the same land. It said the pastoral leases would prevail in a dispute — but the ruling still threw farmers into a panic and they began lobbying for the abolition of the native title.

The legal fiction on the books until now has been that Australia was an "empty land" when Europeans first began settling there in 1788 — so no one could possibly have any title. Australia was the original land without any people waiting for people without land, according to the white man's law. It was, in reality, the Aboriginal land. But who wanted to deal with that one!

Kyoto reaches gas-emission pact

KYOTO (Reuters) — The world's first treaty to reduce greenhouse gases finally emerged yesterday after marathon talks, in a deal praised by nearly all but clearly loved by few.

The treaty mandates an average cut of 5.2 percent in the emissions blamed for a warming of the planet that could eventually prove to be environmentally disastrous.

The treaty, reached after 11 days of non-stop talks, survived a China-US tussle and a near-breakdown amid chaos in the last 24 hours.

US Vice President Al Gore, whose lightning visit on Monday helped restart the mired negotiations, said the treaty marked a "vital turning point" in the global warming fight.

No nation claimed victory and none ended up completely happy with targets or obligations set for them.

It was as true for tiny islands threatened with extinction as for the three big players, the United States, the world's biggest polluter, the European Union, which had the most ambitious target going into the meeting, and Japan, the meeting's host.

The US ended up committed to cuts of 7%, the European Union nations 8%, and Japan 6%, from

1990 emission levels in the next 15 years.

But the group of nearly 10,000 delegates, environmentalists and even business lobbyists against a treaty could rightly claim to have

been present for the first step towards legally binding cuts in the six gases, such as carbon dioxide, blamed for global warming.

Reaction was generally supportive, but some quarters already started questioning how the goals would be met.

Even the prime minister of the host country, Ryutaro Hashimoto, said the 6% target "is a very heavy figure for Japan."

Scientific evidence accepted by the conference warned that heating up of the earth's surface from gases trapped in the atmosphere causes more and fiercer storms, wider deserts, rising sea levels that threaten to engulf low-lying islands and melting of polar ice.

"Perhaps this day will be in the future remembered as the Day of the Atmosphere," said conference chairman Raul Estrada, Argentina's ambassador to China.

But EU Environment Commissioner Ritt Bjerregaard is worried about the future. "This is not good enough for the future," she told reporters.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

We deeply mourn the passing of our dearly
beloved mother and grandmother

RUTH POTASH

We shall carry her memory always in our hearts.

Her daughters Nina and Vivienne
Her sons-in-law and grandchildren

The funeral will take place today,
Friday, December 12, 1997 at 11:30 a.m.
at the Vatikim Cemetery, Netanya.

We deeply mourn the passing of our sister

RUTH POTASH

David Bear and family
Dora Sachs and family

We shall cherish her memory always.

RUTH POTASH

Dorothy and Isay Isaacowitz and family
Shollie and Rose Isaacowitz and family
We remain with cherished memories.

To Sharon Hess Schwabe

Sincere condolences on the death of your

Father

Your friends at
Goldfine & Partners



Bar-Ilan University

mourns the passing of

HANNAH MINTZ 57

of London and Herzliya
Beloved Mother of Gloria, Valerie and Richard
Grandmother and Great-grandmother

Together with her late husband, Louis,
Hannah created a Jewish dynasty founded
on love, tradition and tolerance

May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

mourns the passing of

Prof. YOASH VAADIA

former Vice President and Director General of the University
and Professor Emeritus of Plant Physiology

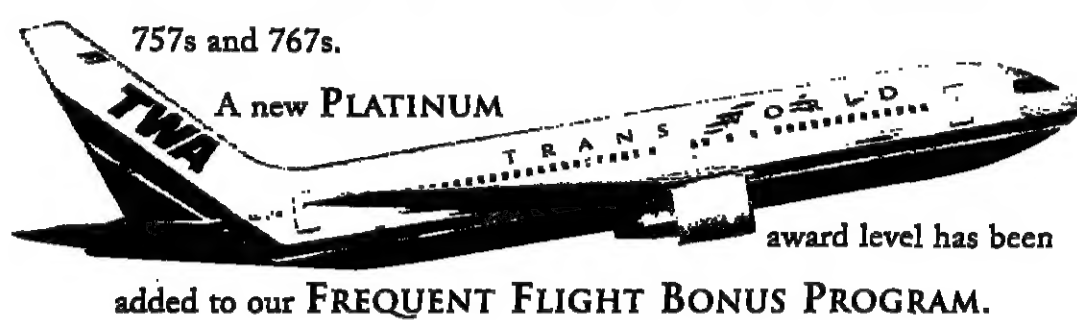
The funeral will be held on Sunday, December 14, 1997.
The casket will be placed at 12:30 p.m. in the plaza of the
Sherman Administration Building on the Givat Ram
campus. Funeral services will begin at 1 p.m.
The procession to the cemetery on the Mount of Olives
(the Sephardi Community Section) will depart at 1:30 p.m.

מכון תל אביב

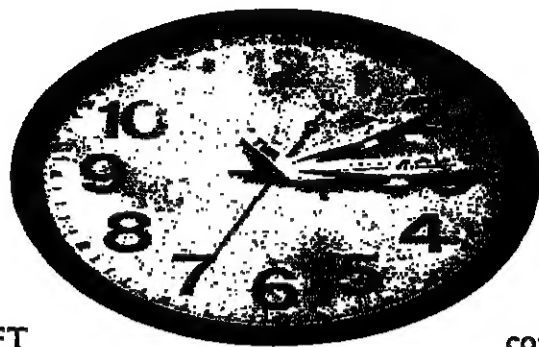
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All this is just what's happened so far.

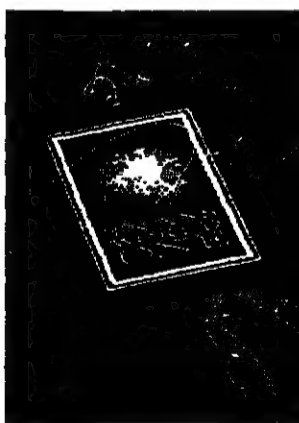


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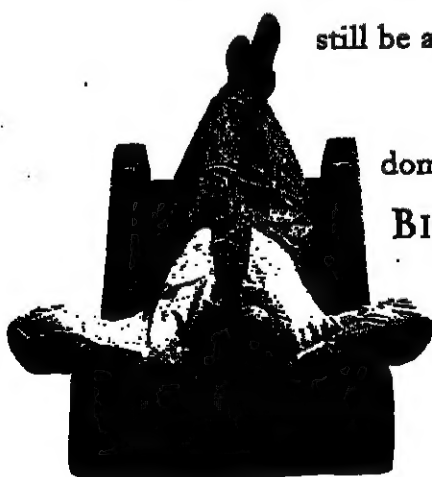
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Bitter medicine

The picture of teenage cancer patient Tal Levy lobbying the president and the Knesset for the drugs she needs reinforces the almost universal conviction in any compassionate society that no one should want for life-saving medical treatments. The issue is not whether the health-care system should provide the critical drugs that Levy and many others need, but how society chooses to pay for its medical care.

The Finance Ministry is, of course, beside itself over the accusation that it is responsible for withholding vital drugs just to save money. The Treasury argues that the Health Ministry campaign to include 14 new drugs in the national insurance "basket" is cynically using sick children to increase its budget. The Treasury is right that this is a typical case of a ministry claiming that the money it does not have just happens to be slated for what the public cares about most.

In this case, however, it was the Treasury that ambushed itself by steadfastly refusing to add almost any drugs to the health basket since the list was drawn up in June 1994. Besides creating an invitation for just the sort of irresistible pressure we are now seeing, the Treasury tactic violates the spirit of the National Health Insurance Law by not updating the basket as medical technology develops.

Of course, the Treasury says that these drugs should be paid for by trimming the fat within the health funds, not by adding to the health budget. But here the Treasury is not being entirely straight either, because it is using this issue to promote a larger agenda: the piecemeal dismantling of the National Health Insurance Law.

For both sides, the debate is not really over the 14 drugs which all agree must be provided, but the NIS 1.3 billion deficit that warns of a health system headed for collapse. The Finance Ministry is trying to tinker with the problem in the arrangements bill to be considered this month, which tries to introduce some competition in the system by allowing the health funds to adjust the health care packages they offer. The bill also encourages the establishment of new private health-care companies.

It seems that the Treasury is trying to break off bits of the national health-care system, in the hopes that at least part of it can be made more financially viable. But the result of this piecemeal dismemberment could be that people will

end up paying the same or more for a shrinking basket of services.

So far, the Finance Ministry believes that the political will for a fundamental overhaul of the system does not exist, so tinkering must suffice. And while proponents of the existing system act as if busting the budget targets or squeezing out some new taxes will solve the problem, they must know that throwing money at the system will not save it either.

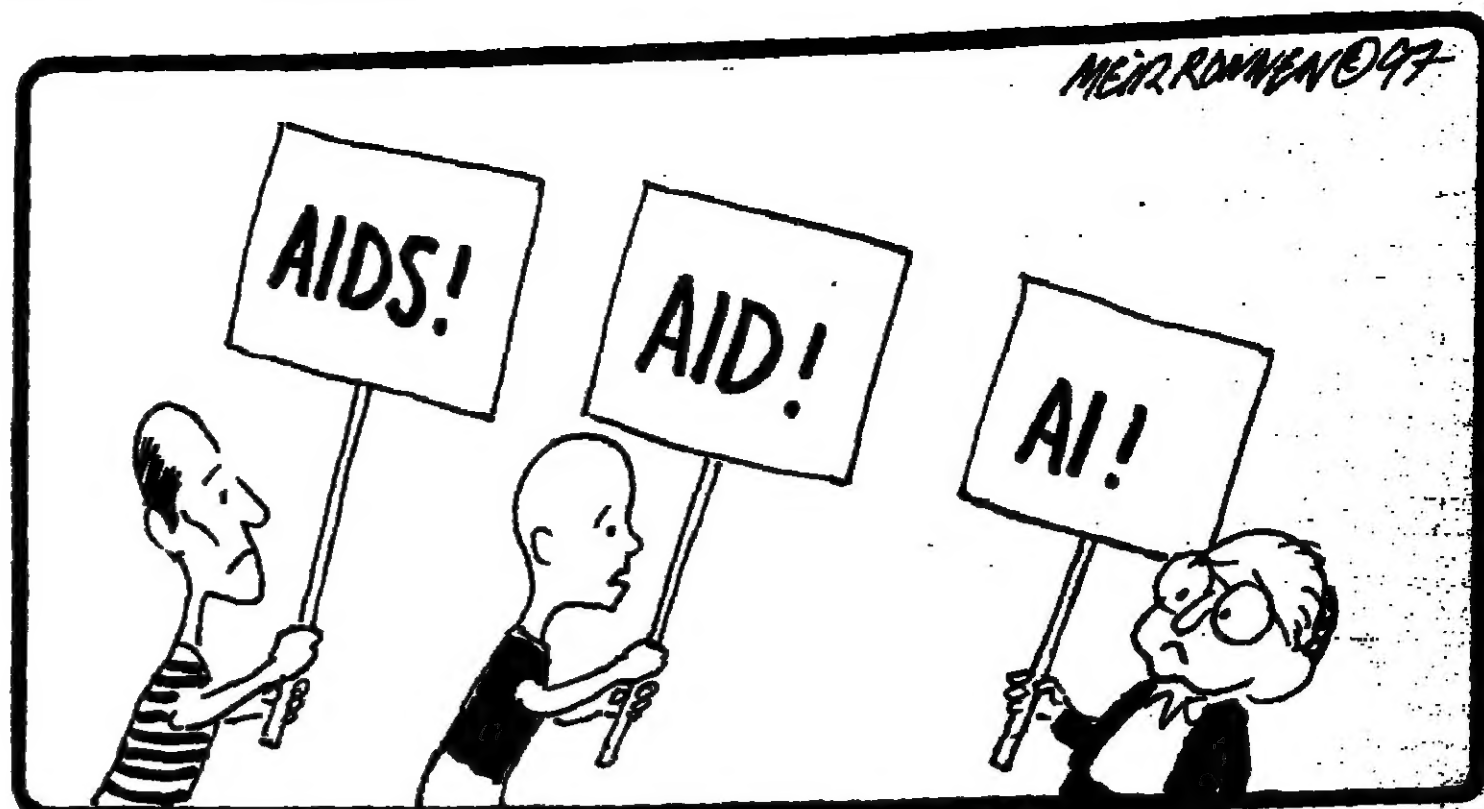
In the end, Israel will run up against the same wall that other systems of socialized medicine have crashed into: the rationing of care. England, Canada, New Zealand, and Sweden have all experienced long waiting lists for surgery. A few years ago surgeons in Canada reported that, for heart patients, the danger of dying on the waiting list exceeded the danger of dying on the operating table.

High technology also tends to get short shrift in socialized systems. In 1990, for example, Canada had only 12 magnetic resonance imagers, compared to 900 in the United States. Though Israel is now enjoying the benefits of a relatively young population and a glut of doctors, it is a matter of time before the troubles that have plagued other socialized systems surface here, too.

In the context of the flap over adding drugs to the health basket, politicians such as MK Haim Ramon accused the Treasury of striving for an American-style health system, as if that system were the height of barbarity. The fact is that no country has yet achieved the holy grail of universal coverage, top quality, and cost efficiency.

What is clear, however, is that rising health costs threaten, as some Canadian analysts described their own predicament, to "crowd out every other public spending priority - social services, the environment, education. All are being shortchanged to feed an inefficiently organized health-care system." Free market mechanisms need not be the enemy of the best possible combination of universal access and quality care; indeed only a system that utilizes some elements of competition will be efficient enough to survive in the long run.

We cannot even begin to achieve such a system until we admit that the National Health Insurance Law is plunging us into a dead end. An overhaul that utilizes competition to fulfill society's values is not a barbaric concept, but the only way out.



An unacceptable redeployment

NAOMI CHAZAN

The government proposals for the second redeployment, based on a "pick and choose" approach to the Oslo Accords, are thoroughly unacceptable. Their objective is to prevent the creation of a viable Palestinian state alongside Israel, and to thereby thwart any prospect of a permanent settlement. If Israel forces the Palestinians into an untenable situation, we too will suffer the consequences of the demise of the Oslo process.

Whatever lip service Benjamin Netanyahu has paid to the Oslo Accords over the past 18 months, he has completely dissipated their spirit. The Netanyahu-led negotiations lack any commitment to patience and dialogue in this arduous process, to basic human rights, or to the ultimate goal of peaceful and respectful coexistence.

Since taking office, the Netanyahu government has blatantly promoted settlement activity and the confiscation of Palestinian land. His policies have contributed to the further impoverishment of the Palestinian population of the West Bank and Gaza. With this track record, it is no surprise that the current redeployment proposals ignore most aspects of the pre-existing agreements and fail to address their economic, social, and political implications for the Palestinian people, and by extension for Israel.

These proposals trample upon both the principles and the spirit of the Oslo process. First of all, this is a unilateral proposal. The

Netanyahu government has been engaged for over two weeks in negotiations with itself. Without meaningful dialogue with the Palestinians, the outcome of these discussions will be no more than yet another Israeli dictate.

The second point relates to timing. This redeployment is already long overdue. To delay its implementation until March, an addi-

strange conditionalities, further testing Palestinian behavior and patience. Israel cannot announce an expansion of settlements and simultaneously ask for 100 percent Palestinian compliance.

Fifth, the Oslo framework explicitly provides for the territorial integrity of the Palestinian entity. By creating noncontiguous bubbles of Palestinian autonomy,

The Netanyahu government has been engaged for over two weeks in redeployment negotiations with itself

tional four months, given that the first redeployment was never carried out, is inexcusable. Once commitments are made, they must be put into effect as scheduled. Recent experience has clearly shown that Israel risks far more through postponement and hesitation than it stands to gain.

Third, the Oslo Accords, while not specific about the quantity of land to be transferred to the Palestinian Authority under the interim agreements, never considered the possibility of meaningless gestures.

Netanyahu's offer of six percent to eight percent of the contested territory simply will not do.

Fourth, the government decision on the principles of the second redeployment carries with it

transform the area under the PA into isolated, bantustan-like islands reminiscent of the worst policies of South Africa under apartheid.

Many of the PA's primary duties, foremost the development of the economic, political, and social infrastructure, would essentially depend upon the mood of the Israeli government. The Palestinian people's basic needs, beginning with health, education, housing, and social welfare, would remain subject to Israeli geographic, economic, and administrative restrictions. How can any Palestinian entity, regardless of its official label, possibly coalesce if even its slightest move is dependent upon Israeli approval?

THIS government is motivated by a stubborn dedication to attaining its own goals, however unreasonable, at the great expense of the Palestinians as human beings. If Israeli territorial adjustments were to follow the proposal that is currently on the table, Palestinian autonomy would be nothing more than pure facade, a cruel joke on the broad-minded agreements signed in good faith four years ago.

Redeployment and final-status negotiations must be grounded in the principles of security and mutual trust. In the near future, a Palestinian state will stand alongside Israel, and it is in Israel's best interest to ensure that this state embodies the same values of justice, freedom, and human dignity that must guide our own. This goal can only be achieved through dialogue, mutual recognition of needs and concerns, and bilateral decisions that recognize and honor the dignity and rights of the citizens of both communities.

We know that peace is in Israel's best interest - politically, economically, and socially. Any proposed agreement that neglects the parallel interests of the Palestinians is doomed to failure. This preposterous proposal, which would barely fulfill the letter of the Oslo Accords and falls miles short of its spirit, has no place in the policies of any government of Israel.

The writer is a Meretz MK and a deputy speaker of the Knesset.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BAN STRIKES

Sir, - Amir Peretz is to be congratulated on the extent of the strike he masterminded. Ephraim Kishon once said that the success of a strike depends on the amount of damage it can do. This week's strike certainly did a very thorough damaging job to the country's economy. I am surprised, though, that Peretz did not go even further and close down the large foodstores, and order doctors to refuse to treat even emergency cases. I have no doubt that our well-disciplined public would gladly have starved and even laid down their lives in the cause of the strike.

Some complain that the strike has been excessively severe. But once you grant the validity of the strike there is no setting bounds to it. People need to be reminded that the strike was first introduced, about the middle of the last century, when workers (who constituted the vast majority of the population) were downtrodden and had few, if any, political rights. Today all citizens have equal political rights.

There is, therefore, no justification for the strike which is a form of organized violence, detrimental both to the economy and the moral values of the country. The moral message of the strike to the individual citizen is "If you don't get what you want, resort to violence."

If we want an economically viable state and a morally sane society, the time has come to ban the strike and to substitute binding arbitration.

H. SOPHER

Haifa.

RESIGN NOW

Sir, - As a long-time admirer of Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, I urge him to resign - now, while the resigning is good.

As a devoted apolitical minister attempting to salvage a tough state budget, he is facing the toughest, most vitriolic, political barrage conceivable in this country, with each quarter demanding more than the next. With the country's wage and tax structures as quixotic as ever, the Histadrut will never yield. Undoubtedly, a hapless Yaakov Neeman may already be cursing the day he accepted the lofty job of finance minister.

Another good reason for resigning now was his recent fiasco in accepting the invitation of the Israeli Progressive (Reform) Judaism movement to be guest of honor at their recent convention.

As chairman of the committee seeking to bridge the Orthodox-Reform fissure, Neeman had no business accepting such an invitation from either of the sides, at least until the committee's tenure ends.

His controversial appearance before the convention - regardless of his message to the delegates - has not only angered the Orthodox leadership and exacerbated things, but has also cast deep doubt on the chances of the Neeman Committee to succeed in its mission.

Those chances, slim as they now appear, may dissolve entirely unless Neeman leaves the government. And the sooner, the better - for his own sake.

YEHUDA FRANKEL

Tiberias.

SAVING JUDAISM

Sir, - In rebuttal to Tsvi November's letter "Dangerous Pluralism" (November 25), I would say outright and shooting from the hip that the Reform and Conservative movements are saving Judaism in America. In my home town of Richmond, California, 20% of our Reform congregation were Gentiles, converted to Judaism.

When my daughter's teacher spent more time at Sunday school discussing baseball and batting averages, we thought it was time to look for another school. We attended a Friday night service at Temple Emanuel in San Francisco (Reform), and I was surprised. We joined and were pleased with the emphasis placed on Jewish culture and Zionism. They sent the confirmation class to Israel for seven weeks, including my son. It is the fanatic Orthodox that are causing disunity in Israel. Wouldn't it be a comfort if we followed the dictum in the Torah that we are all brothers?

BEN GALE

Jerusalem.

RADIO ANACHRONISM

Sir, - A committee has been approved to seek out a suitable person to head the army radio station. It seems to me the time has come to realize that Israel is the only free country to have an army station. In these days of electronic communications there is no military need whatsoever for such a station.

Keeping Army Radio is at best pure anachronism and at worst an outlet for possible anti-democratic actions.

ELIEZER GOLDSCHMIDT

Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On December 12, 1932, *The Palestine Post* reported at length on an anti-British plot in Cairo.

The Polish Interior Minister had instructed the Governor of Lemberg to present a detailed report on the anti-Jewish riots which took place in that city. Mass protests by students were held in this connection before the Polish consulate in New York.

50 years ago: On December 12, 1947, *The Palestine Post* reported that 10 Jews were killed and four badly wounded when Arabs

opened fire at a convoy traveling on the Jerusalem-Hebron road. Six Arabs were killed and 32 injured in Haifa when Hagana attacked the Eastern quarters and blew up a house in Wadi Rushmieh which housed Arab gangs attacking Jewish transports on the bridge.

Three Arabs were killed and many more injured when the Hagana repulsed their attack on the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem. The situation remained tense in the city where many isolated incidents were reported. The Hagana blew up

three Arab houses at Shuafat, on the road to Ramallah.

25 years ago: On December 12, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the former kibbutznik, Ehud Adiv, 26, suspected member of an Arab-Jewish-Syrian espionage ring, was said to have admitted that he had divulged highly classified military information to the Syrians. Seventeen alleged members of this group had been arrested.

Apollo 17 landed for man's sixth visit to the moon.
Alexander Zvielli

The root of all evil?

URIEL LYNN

serious consideration and analysis.

First, the law did not alleviate the extortionist leverage enjoyed by the religious parties. In any democracy, the rights of minorities should be preserved, but we do not want them to force their will on the majority. The critics say that as result of the new law, the situation has become even worse: There are negotiations before the elections and there are nasty concessions after the elections and before the installation of the new government.

I disagree. According to the new system each coalition agreement made before the elections must be made public. Thus, the public knows the concessions made by any candidate to his future partners before it goes to the polls. The voters cannot be misled, and this public knowledge in itself restrains the candidates from making agreements that will be unacceptable to the supporters of their party.

After the elections, the parties who wish to join the government must negotiate with one person only. They do not have the maneuvering room of negotiating with two aspirants. This is a great change. Following the elections of 1984 and 1988, it took no less than two months to form a government. After the elections of 1996, it took only two weeks.

THE second criticism is that the prime minister, in reality, cannot be removed from office, even if he is a total failure and a true danger to the future of the country. Nothing could be not more misleading. After being elected, the prime minister must present his government to the Knesset and get its vote of confidence.

Any time thereafter, the Knesset, by a simple majority of 61 of its members in a vote of no confidence, can depose the prime minister. In such a case, the Knesset

itself is dissolved and general elections must be held within two months. The logic is simple: The prime minister was elected by the people and not by the Knesset, and if the Knesset feels that the situation is so serious that it merits revoking the democratic decision of the electorate, then it should be accountable.

However, the critics contend that it will be hard to find 61 MKs who will topple the government, even in case of national emergency, because they will be losing their seats. I do not believe that a

constitutional law should be enacted to fit the selfishness of elected representatives, and if such is the case, the criticism should be directed at those 61 MKs and not at the law.

The third type of criticism is that the Knesset representation of the small and mid-size parties has grown, while that of the two main parties has diminished. This is definitely a worrisome fact, but the real question is why did it happen and is it because of the direct election of the prime minister?

The direct election law did not create our system of elections for the Knesset, it only left it intact. I did not hear any of the critics suggesting that the law should be changed to create a system of elections for the Knesset, it only left it intact. I did not hear any of the critics suggesting that the law should be changed to create a system of elections for the Knesset, it only left it intact.

The writer is a former MK who chaired the Knesset Law Committee.

POSTSCRIPTS

A WOMAN who stole four packages of undershirts in West Palm Beach, Florida, was sentenced to 15 years in prison under the state's new "two strikes, you're out" law.

Under the law, offenders who commit a violent felony within three years of being released from state prison must serve the maximum penalty for the offense.

For Theresa Ann McKenzie, 33, who has been arrested at least 18 times in the past 10 years, that meant a mandatory 15 years for stealing the undershirts.

AS REAL estate offers go, this one's out of this world.

Parcels of the moon are for sale and for far less than the \$300,000 you'd likely drop elsewhere. A mere \$15.99 at the Moon Shop in Washington can get you a spacious 1.8 acres of virgin lunar soil with a lovely Earth-side view.

Sound like a scam? Lunar Embassy ambassador Dennis Hope, who cites the haphazard homesteading of the West as legal precedent, claims to have jumped through the right legal hoops in claiming rights to the orbital body, including filing with the UN.

Blame Assad, not false information

GERALD M. STEINBERG

Yehuda Gil, the Mossad agent charged with fabricating intelligence information on Syria, had an accomplice. Without President Hafez Assad's assistance, no one would have taken Gil's reported allegations regarding Syrian plans to attack Israel seriously. Assad claims to have made "a strategic decision" for peace, but his words and actions point in the opposite direction. In early 1996, the Syrian leader had the opportunity to regain all of the Golan in the framework of a peace agreement with the Peres government.

Assad claims to have made 'a strategic decision' for peace, but his words and actions point in the opposite direction

He refused, raising serious doubts about his objectives.

Although the Golan Heights have been quiet since the ceasefire agreement in 1974, Syria remains on a war footing and is prepared for a full-scale conflict. The crisis that led to the war scare in the fall of 1996 began when the 14th Division of the Syrian army left Beirut and took up positions near Mt. Hermon. In 1973, the Syrian surprise attack started with a helicopter-borne assault on the early-warning station near the summit. This time, no secret information was required to raise the level of concern in Israel.

The Syrians maintain a standing army of over 300,000 soldiers (twice the Israeli total), 4,600 main battle tanks, and close to 600 combat aircraft.

The numbers are increasing, and since "choosing peace," the Assad government has spent large sums on new weapons and missiles. The Syrian army holds large-scale annual exercises on the Syrian side of the Golan, including missile tests. Assad has also equipped his forces with the most deadly chemical weapons, including VX nerve gas.

As a result, Israeli leaders and analysts take the possibility that Syria might decide to launch a limited attack - a "quick grab" to gain a foothold in the Golan - or perhaps a wider assault very seriously. Any changes in Syrian military deployments trigger alarms and defensive preparations, "just in case."

The transition from peace to war can be very quick, and by planting false information regarding Syrian plans, Yehuda Gil might have triggered a war. However, the instability that gave Gil this opportunity is Syria's responsibility.

These military preparations for war are reinforced by the policies and public statements of the Assad regime. It is still a prominent member of the "rejectionist front," refusing to engage in direct contacts with Israelis, including academic meetings and informal discussions designed to ease tension, increase understanding, and avoid confusion.

Assad consistently condemns other Arab states for normalizing relations with Israel. In his speech before the Islamic summit in Teheran, he spoke in racist terms, while praising Iran's "support of the Arab nation and her struggle against Zionism and her resistance of Zionist greed in the land, wealth, and resources of Arabs and Moslems."

OTHER Syrian officials talk frequently and publicly about the "inevitability of war with Israel." In a recent interview published in the Arabic press, a high-level official boasted that "Syria is strong and can cause Israel the heaviest of losses. It does not need weapons from outside, since it manufactures its own weapons, for example 600-kilometer range missiles that are not imported."

In Lebanon, the Syrians provide direct support and military protection for Hizbullah's guerrilla war against Israel. Assad has repeatedly blocked efforts to negotiate an end to this conflict, and has attempted to use the fighting in Lebanon to pressure Israel. Thus, the potential for crisis and wider regional conflict is not the result of an agent provocateur's false information, but of Syrian policies.

In addition, the Assad regime's murder of thousands of Syrians in Hama in the campaign to destroy the Muslim Brotherhood in 1982, and Syria military support for the PLO's attempted coup in Jordan in 1970, have not been forgotten.

A few years ago, Syrian state television broadcast ceremonies of a "celebration" in Assad's honor. In addition to the usual military displays, this celebration included women soldiers biting snakes, apparently to demonstrate their bravery. In Israel, these scenes reinforced the image of a brutal state willing to accept very high casualties for ideological goals.

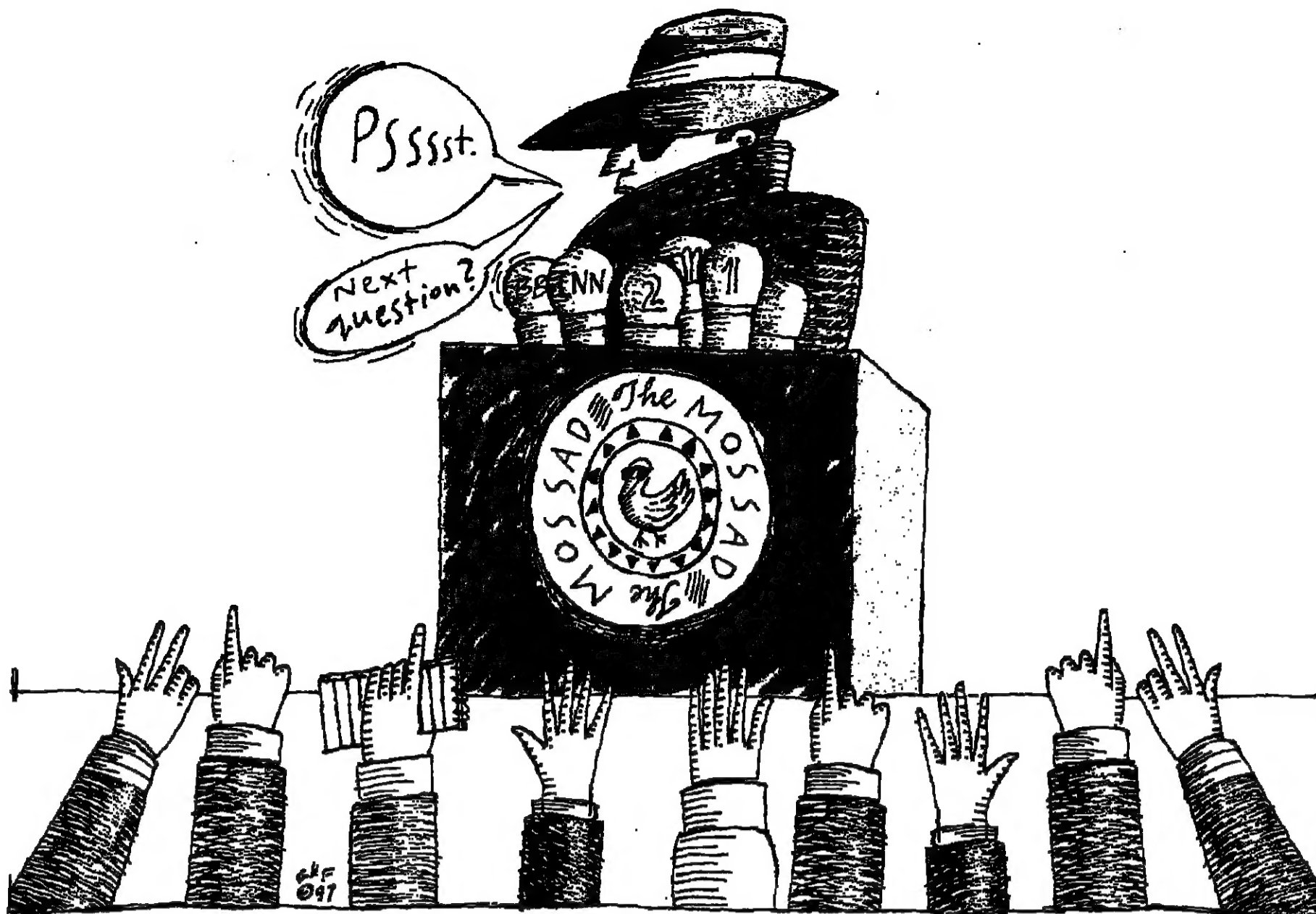
In 1996, Israeli decision makers acted carefully and responsibly, discounting Gil's claims and also taking a series of clear actions to reassure the Syrians. However, there is no guarantee that future false alarms will not lead to accidental war.

Assad has consistently rejected the "creation of a 'hot line' between Damascus and Jerusalem. Similar systems linking the Israeli leadership with the heads of Egypt and Jordan have proven to be valuable tools for defusing crises. In the absence of dialogue and open communication, the potential for misunderstandings, particularly in crises, will remain.

None of this reduces the severity of the charges against Yehuda Gil.

His actions weakened Israeli intelligence, and under different circumstances, could have triggered a war. However, as long as Damascus remains a mystery, Assad continues to undermine normalization between Israel and the Arab world, and Syria prepares for war, the sources of instability will remain.

The writer is a professor of political studies at Bar-Ilan University and director of the Arms Control Program at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies.



The Mossad in the media age

A number of lessons can be learned from the Yehuda Gil affair, as it has unfolded thus far, regarding the long-term relationship between the Mossad and the public. Incidentally, they apply equally to the General Security Service as well, though it was not involved in the affair.

This is not the first instance of corruption in the secret services, nor, unfortunately, is it likely to be the last. There were times when corrupt practices were far more widespread, if perhaps not as obviously damaging to national security.

Because the public has an over-idealized image of the services, it tends to react to the revelation of corruption, or, for that matter, of operational failure (e.g., the Mashal Affair) with particular outrage and disappointment. And because we live in the media age, an aberration like the Gil affair apparently can no longer be kept "in the family," it leaks.

The leakers are mostly Yehuda Gil's comrades in the intelligence family. And the damage incurred from the snowball of information - names, identifying data about

sources, photographs, details on modus operandi - that is thrust upon the public merely compounds the original security damage done by Gil.

One area in which the Mossad itself can take corrective measures is the realm of manpower recruitment and the "care and handling" of its agents. To be sure, a career in the Mossad is not something normally considered appropriate for a "nice Jewish boy (or girl)." It may involve long periods abroad, separation from family and familiar surroundings, and heavy psychological pressures brought on both by operational demands and by the reliance on deception as a normative way of dealing with people.

The operative has to be highly intelligent, adventurous, a bit of a bastard, fluent in languages, and thick-skinned. Israel requires a relatively large number of operatives to deal with the huge intelligence challenges it faces. It is no longer true that only the "best and the brightest" go into security careers, and there is little that can be done about this.

Hence it is difficult to find suitable candidates, and compromises

JOSEPH ALPHER

must be made.

Nevertheless, too frequently we learn of operatives, or trainees like Victor Ostrovsky (*By Way of Deception*), who are taken on board in view of their special

The Mossad needs a spokesman so it can engage in information control, rather than attempts at information denial

skills, such as languages or military background, while ignoring obvious personality defects. Ostrovsky's recruitment was not the first instance in which the Mossad chose to ignore a previous record of improprieties.

ALTERNATELY, over-reliance on a skilled operative like Gil results in his being kept on the job too long - or brought back from retire-

ment - rather than bringing in fresh forces, even at the expense of a temporary downturn in productivity. Operational personnel have to be screened better on the moral plane to weed out those who cannot distinguish between deceiving our enemies and deceiving our own side.

But because the human factor is paramount in Mossad operations, mistakes are inevitable. This brings us to an additional area in which, however belatedly, lessons can be learned from the Gil affair. The Mossad needs a spokesman.

The Gil affair offered a reliable illustration of the virtual impossibility of maintaining secrecy in Israel in the late 1990s, once initial information has gotten out. One reason is the growing readiness of Mossad personnel themselves to talk quietly to the press - because of professional frustrations, personal grudges, politics, or even a sense that they are serving the national good.

Another is the way the modern electronic media works, rendering national borders and governmental press restrictions virtually meaningless. Finally, Israel's own standards of security censorship

have been radically softened in recent years; once the initial, deliberately vague report of the affair came out in *Ha'aretz*, the military censor was repeatedly unable to justify muzzling the media regarding additional, more detailed information.

All this points to the need for the Mossad to engage in information control, rather than (frequently ineffective) attempts at information denial. A spokesman who combines both security and media experience would conceivably be more successful in limiting the damage in a case like this. Hopefully, this would reduce the inclination of intelligence personnel to talk to the media in an irresponsible manner, while guaranteeing the public its maximum right to know, within security bounds.

This is not the first time the idea of a spokesman has been broached by this writer and others. What does the Mossad have to lose by trying?

The writer is a former senior official in the Mossad. He is currently director of the Israel/Middle East office of the American Jewish Committee.

Long haul for pensions

PINCHAS LANDAU

The results of the strike that ended Monday morning, after paralyzing the country for several days, were sufficiently inconclusive for both sides to claim at least a partial victory.

Given the loose ends drooping from the temporary settlement and, more importantly, given the fact that the Treasury and the public sector unions are only now going to open negotiations on the next multi-year wage package, it seems a fair bet that we will see more labor unrest in the not-too-distant future.

However, on the underlying issue over which the strike was conducted, some clear progress was made. The issue is the structure of the public sector pension system, and the progress was that the Histadrut agreed that all new employees in the public sector will be in a contributory pension plan, whereas hitherto they have been in a non-contributory one.

The difference between the two approaches is enormous: In a contributory scheme, not only does the employee pay a percentage of his gross salary into his pension plan, but the employer knows exactly how much his contribution is - and this becomes part of his ongoing wage costs. When the employee retires, his pension is not paid by the employer but by the pension fund where it has accumulated, so that retirement ends the financial obligation of the employer to the (now former) employee.

In a non-contributory system, known as a "budgetary pension," the employer - i.e., the government, local authority, state agency, etc. - pays pensions to former employees out of its current budget. As the Treasury was at pains to point out during the recent dispute, the actuarial obligation built up by the state to

former and current employees - meaning the money it will have to pay out in the future, but hasn't yet budgeted - amounts to an estimated NIS 163 billion. Worse, it is growing at a very rapid clip, so that although it doesn't show up in current budgets or in existing government debt, it represents a massive addition to total government indebtedness.

Enough to bankrupt the country, sooner or later, if the system isn't changed. That's no idle threat, as a series of crises in European countries (Sweden, Italy, and others) in recent years, has made abundantly clear.

BUT the latest agreement between the Treasury and the Histadrut doesn't mean that Israel has sorted out its pension structure problem. In the best case, it means that a significant step forward has been made. The trouble is that the Histadrut has previously agreed (twice) to move the public sector from budgetary to contributory pensions, but the public sector unions have blocked the implementation of this move.

Even if the Treasury has now maneuvered the Histadrut and the unions into going ahead with the move, which will in any case be a very gradual process, that gain has been achieved only after a tough and bitter struggle which saw the government renege on an obligation signed - however wrongly and for whatever political motives - by the previous government, and after the Histadrut brazenly flouted the National Labor Court rulings.

This damage could have been avoided by the government adopt-

ing a less overtly aggressive stance toward the Histadrut. The Treasury's tactics boomeranged so badly that many commentators have credited the government with the improbable achievement of giving the moribund and bankrupt Histadrut a new lease on life. A process of negotiation in which the government showed firm resolve, but without viciousness, might well have achieved more, almost certainly at a lower cost.

Lastly, but hardly least, the latest pension deal, no less than its predecessors, is fundamentally flawed by the fact that it enshrines the right of pension funds to put most of their money in non-tradable, high-yield government bonds.

It is difficult to exaggerate the long-term damage that this will do to the economy. The clearest and most immediate aspect of this damage is that it ensures that the Israeli capital markets will remain shallow, illiquid, and largely useless for corporations seeking to raise debt and for private investors seeking to invest in such corporate paper. In short, the bond market, which is the heart of the capital market, remains nationalized, as it always has been. That's very bad news for the development of the financial markets, and bad news for investors. Corporations will seek alternative capital sources overseas, but the most natural supply of investment funds for the domestic economy, namely long-term domestic savings, remains blocked. Indeed, the blockage has been strengthened and consolidated by a supposedly pro-market government which, in this as in most things, has demonstrated that it knows not what it does.

The writer comments on economic affairs.

A question of tactics

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

nothing more than echoing the "big lie" of the Reform and Conservative ad campaign that Israel is, or soon will be, an Iran-style theocracy.

The damage done to Israel by such testimony is incalculable. It undercuts the major basis of

In their battle against the conversion bill, the Reform and Conservative movements have bitterly divided world Jewry and seriously undermined the position of Israel with the Clinton administration

Israel's support with the American public and Congress: its claim to be the only functioning democracy in the Middle East. Nor is the damage limited to Congress.

If President Bill Clinton had not read three front-page stories in *The New York Times* two weeks ago describing the mounting disaffection of American Jewry over the conversion bill, would he have been so quick to attribute America's ongoing humiliation by Saddam Hussein not to his own lack of resolve, but to Israel's alleged recalcitrance in the peace process? Even for a president so experienced at brazening himself out of embarrassing situations that was a little much.

Unfortunately, however, as the perception grows in Washington that Israel can count on little support in the American Jewish community - a perception fueled by open lobbying by Jewish groups against Israel - it is a likely harbinger of things to come.

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According to a 1995 study by the American Jewish Congress, only

17 percent of Reform Jews identify strongly with Israel (as opposed to 72% of the Orthodox), and over 40% say that they would not view the destruction of Israel as a personal tragedy. Only 10% of non-Orthodox American Jews have even visited Israel.

These grim numbers will only worsen as the toll of intermarriage rises. The Reform intermarriage rate is already well above 50%, and only 18% of the children of intermarriage are raised as Jews. It is these statistics, and the loss of any meaningful Jewish identity they reveal, which make a Jewish campaign against Israel psychologically thinkable in the first place.

Yet as tepid as is the support for Israel by most non-Orthodox Jews, Israel nevertheless remains one of the few points of Jewish identity. By continually drumming home to their congregants, in sermon after sermon, that Israel rejects Reform Jews, Reform leaders are playing with fire for very short-term gain. The Orthodox-bashing that dominated Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur sermons across the US is a measure of the spiritual failure of the Reform and Conservative movements over the past hundred years in America. The only thing they can offer to arouse their members is hatred of the Orthodox.

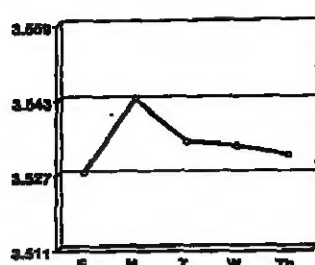
But when all the fusillades against the Orthodox have cleared, American Jews will be no closer to their tradition. Just the opposite. Having been taught to despise the most identifiable representatives of that tradition and that the Jewish state is not theirs, they will be more spiritually bereft than ever.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

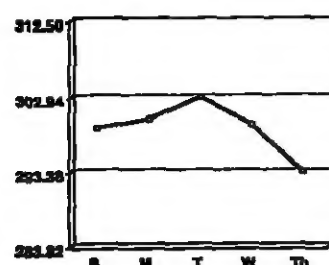
MARKETS

in brief

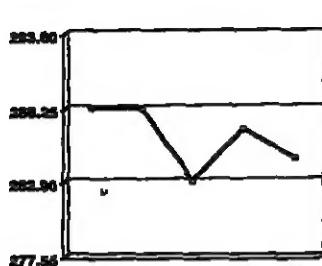
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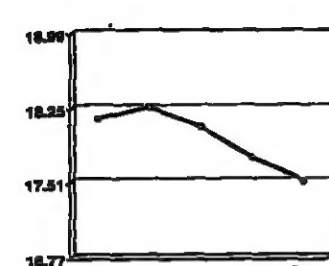
MAOF INDEX



GOLD
\$ per ounce



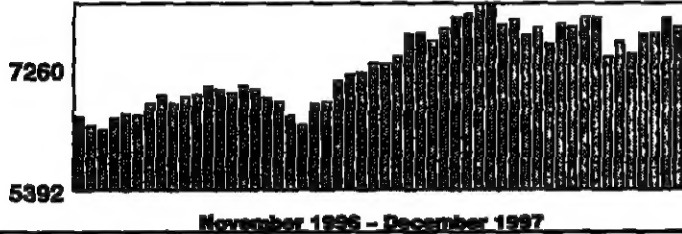
OIL
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Real estate prices dropped by as much as 15% in 1997

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Housing prices declined by 5 to 15 percent in real terms during the last 12 months, industry sources estimate. The sharpest decline was felt in luxury homes selling for \$2 million-\$2.5 million, along the coastal plain, which lost 15% of their value. In some cases their market value fell by 30%.

While prices of larger homes fell sharply, the prices of two-bedroom apartments remained almost unchanged. The market for these flats is relatively stable, with a somewhat sharper decline in areas south of Tel Aviv.

Industry sources say that the market for the small apartments remains stable,

because the demand for these flats remains high. "Young couples and new immigrants are the main buyers of these apartments and because of that prices don't decline, and even rise slightly in certain areas," said Meir Nachson, CEO of the Anglo-Saxon Real Estate Agency.

Prices in Jerusalem have also fallen, but at a slower pace. Experts say the ongoing shortage of houses in the capital keeps demand high. In addition, foreign investors who lowered their business activity in Israel because of the political situation continue to purchase flats in Jerusalem for ideological reasons.

Prices of expensive apartments of four to five bedrooms were also falling, with those in the Ramat Aviv area losing close to 10%

during the past year.

Figures compiled by the Housing Ministry show that, during the first nine months of the year, sales of new apartments by the country's 10 largest companies fell 12% compared with the equivalent period of 1996.

The decline in housing prices is mainly attributed to the steady decline in immigration and to the general slowing-down of the economy.

The influx of new immigrants in the early 1990s is widely seen as the main engine behind the sharp rise in housing prices this decade.

Another factor impacting the market is the decline in the number of housing starts, which dropped 18% in the first nine

months of the year.

If this decline continues, a shortage may be felt in the market within a year, experts believe.

Industry sources said that many contractors are postponing new projects and some have even returned land to the Israel Lands Administration.

The sources said that while it is hard to predict when the market will recover, the general estimate is that if overall growth starts accelerating in the second half of 1998, it will generate increased demand, which in turn will result in higher property prices.

Full feature to appear in Tuesday's issue.

Intel's Shabbat schedule meets rabbis' resistance

Globe's news service

The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs will not grant Intel permission to operate its Kiryat Gat plant on Shabbat, sources close to this struggle said yesterday.

The assessment is based on the pressure recently exerted by various rabbis, who have sent letters to several plants operating on Shabbat, as well as to the ministers of labor and social affairs, industry and trade, and finance.

Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Eli Yishai has set up a team within his ministry to review Intel's request for a permit.

To date, pressure has been brought to bear only by heads of local rabbinical councils, such

as Yeruham's, where a struggle has been raging for a long time between the Phoenicia plant and the rabbinical council.

Until now, Shabbat work permits were only granted to plants where idle machines would cause severe damage, such as the Dead Sea magnesium plant, or plants which could let non-Jewish workers operate production lines.

Globe's has learned that more than a few plants continue to hold shifts on Shabbat to keep to delivery schedules, even without permits.

Among such plants are high-tech and semiconductor plants, such as Tower Semiconductor which operates on Shabbat. It should be noted that some of Intel's local plants have been given Shabbat permits.



When in Rome...

Students demonstrate in central Rome yesterday over proposed government cutbacks for state schools. The student's placard criticizes the funding of private schools at the expense of public ones.

(AP)

Neeman: PA parks should be free-trade zones

By DAVID HARRIS

Joint industrial parks in the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel should be designated free-trade zones, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said yesterday at a conference of the Center for Middle East Competitive Strategy, "not only regarding taxation, but regarding liberalization from restrictions by all governments concerned."

The Karni industrial park in Gaza should be ready for the first companies to move in by May, according to Kunio Kikuchi, the

International Finance Corporation's principle investment officer for the region. A team from the corporation visited the park earlier this week to see how construction is progressing.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged regional businessmen to work together no matter how the peace process develops.

"Economic development should be developed in its own right," he said. "The first thing you have to do is foster trade and joint ventures, because what you can do together is better than what you

do alone."

The center works to improve economic cooperation among Israel, the PA, Egypt, and Jordan. Netanyahu warned the businessmen that cooperation with surrounding countries is not a prize for Israel, but a shared regional need.

A European company has recently expressed interest in setting up a joint Israeli-Egyptian high-tech company, Netanyahu said. "Why not think of Egypt as a mixed economy, high-tech and low-tech. Why can't we have joint ventures with Egypt. We can apply the same principles to chemicals, plastics, anything." "Israeli industry today is capa-

ble of building joint ventures in neighboring countries," said Manufactures Association President Dan Propper.

Within 20 years Israel and its neighbors could have a well trained, technologically advanced workforce if cooperation is implemented today, he suggested. This must be done in three stages: job creation, bringing the technology to our neighbors, and these in turn creating the need for advanced education across the region. By combining R&D, new infrastructure, education, and marketing abroad, Israel and the neighboring countries can become the industrial backyard of Europe.

Elbit, Boeing seek to cooperate in Polish copter upgrade bid

By STEVE RODAN

Elbit Systems and Boeing are looking into including the North American aerospace giant in the \$650 million contract to upgrade Poland's Huzar helicopter, while not hampering the status of the Israeli consortium's two other members, Elbit executives said yesterday.

The Israeli consortium also includes also Rafael and El-Op Electro-Optics Industries.

"There is no way to break up the package," Elbit president Joseph Ackerman said. "We will find a way to satisfy Boeing, even on Poland, without breaking up the consortium."

The contacts between the two companies come as Poland's Defense Ministry, despite signing an agreement with the consortium, intends to bring in Boeing as a leading participant in the controversial upgrade. The sources said a commission of Polish Defense, Economic, and Foreign Ministry officials is reexamining the competition between the Israeli consortium and a group led by

Boeing.

The return of Boeing to the competition comes despite a recent assertion by Mike Sears, president of Boeing's McDonnell Aircraft and Missile Group, that the company will no longer pursue the contract. "We have stopped all pro-active work to try to win that competition," he told a November 6 news conference in St. Louis. "Our people are off to the side looking at other things and thinking how we are going to win the next competition."

But the new Polish government, elected in September, has refused to accept Boeing's intention to withdraw from the competition. Defense industry sources said Warsaw has been under tremendous pressure from the US Congress, which says the competition improperly favored the Israelis, to include Boeing in the upgrade deal.

"The manner in which this decision transpired seems to us sufficiently faulty, to avoid using stronger language, for it to be necessary to subject all of this to a thorough analysis," Polish Deputy Defense Minister Romuald Szeremietiew said in a recent interview on Polish television.

Polish defense sources said if Elbit does not reach an under-

standing with Boeing, then the Defense Ministry will recommend the competition be reopened. Under the Polish proposal, which Israeli defense sources said has not been formally submitted, Elbit and El-Op would withdraw from the upgrade project. This would leave Boeing to supply the electronics and avionics upgrade, with Rafael to sell the anti-armor NT-D missile.

Israeli defense officials and Elbit executives have resisted this effort. Elbit executives have argued that their company's electronics package is vital to the NT-D missile system.

An agreement has been signed between two countries, Elbit's Ackerman said. "From a technical and business point of view, you can't separate the deal. The Poles understand this."

Ackerman said Elbit has not heard any appeal from the new Polish government to include Boeing in the Huzar contract. He said his company remains in contact with the Defense Ministry in Warsaw concerning the technical issues of the upgrade.

On October 13, Israeli and Polish officials signed a framework agreement that lays the foundation for a contract award to the Elbit-led consortium. But Polish

officials and Israeli defense sources agree that Warsaw did not sign a contract to purchase either the missiles or the electronics upgrade package.

"At this point, the agreement signed is only a piece of paper," Avraham Bar-David, president of Tamuz Control Systems International, said.

Defense executives in both Israel and the US said Boeing, despite its announcement, still intends to participate in the Huzar upgrade. The executives said the US company, which has quietly discussed the prospects of cooperation with Elbit and Rafael, is convinced that the Poles are seeking to include it in an attempt to assuage US officials who have charged that the tender was improper.

A Boeing spokesman, Paul Tobin, did not rule out a return to the competition. "We like everyone else have seen the wide variety of press coverage on this issue," he said. "What is clear is that this is a matter that first must be resolved within the government of Poland. Once that decision is made, we will determine which course best suits all of our customers and our company."

Bar-David said unless Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

intervenes the Poles will grant the entire contract to Boeing.

He said Elbit will not allow Rafael to leave the consortium, leaving the Poles no other way to include US contractors in the Huzar upgrade.

"The Americans are applying tremendous pressure," he said. "Unless the prime minister is ready to talk straight in Washington with the White House and tell it that if we don't win this project, we will lose 2,000 jobs, so let this go, then Boeing will win the project."

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A spy caught in his own web

The false information spread by Yehuda Gil did not harm national security. But in the murky world of international intelligence, the damage to Israel's reputation might be significant, experts tell Herb Keinon

There was something refreshing, even heartwarming, about hearing legendary Mossad officer Rafi Eitan quoting the medieval biblical commentator Rashi, while giving his spin this week on the Yehuda Gil Affair.

"Look," Eitan told Israel Radio, in a gravelly voice, "the first spies in the Bible – the 12 spies who went to spy out the Land of Canaan – came back and spoke badly about it."

Then, sounding more like a rabbi delivering a sermon than like an intelligence officer involved in some of the country's biggest spy coups – and failures – Eitan said: "There is a Rashi commentary there that says the greatest damage the spies did was to give advice [not merely report accurately what they saw]. It is forbidden for handlers, or for the agencies, to give advice. They must only report the facts, not give commentary."

Like the biblical spies who exaggerated the size and ferocity of the inhabitants of Canaan to dissuade the Children of Israel from attempting to conquer it, so Eitan implied – Gil passed on his false information to help the military and political echelon come to the "proper" conclusion: That the Syrians never made a strategic choice for peace. Here is a man who had a thesis, and then cooked up the facts to support it.

"I was very surprised by this," said Ephraim Lapid, who served 20 years in military intelligence, including three years as the head of one of its key departments. "We have never had anything like this before. I would have been less surprised to have heard about a double agent. That is something known. But Gil was not an agent. Agents are generally Arab sources. Gil was a Mossad employee. This is comparable to an architect who designs a house, and then turns out to be the one responsible for destroying it."

THE GIL Affair is not the first time a Mossad operative has turned sour.

In the early days of the state there was Avri Elad, the so-called "Third Man" in the notorious

1950s espionage case, who betrayed his Israeli comrades to the Egyptians in an episode that has come to be known as the Lavon Affair. And there was Mordechai Keidar, a Mossad man who spent 17 years in jail for killing an intelligence informant in Argentina in 1961.

More recently the Mossad produced Victor Ostrovsky, the man who spent 14 months in the Mossad in the 1980s, and then went to Canada and wrote two

Yehuda Gil was neither Kim Philby nor Aldridge Ames. He was an embarrassing gnat on the Mossad's reputation, but he was no burrowing mole

kiss-and-tell books about the organization (see adjacent story). Ostrovsky, like Gil, was accused of badly tarnishing the organization's reputation.

All week long, pundits and intelligence analysts were repeating a common line: Gil did not do any real damage to state security. He did not pass on secrets to the state's enemies, he was not a double agent. Yehuda Gil was neither Kim Philby nor Aldridge Ames. He was an embarrassing gnat on the Mossad's reputation, but he was no burrowing mole.

In the smoke-and-mirrors world of intelligence, however, reputation means a lot. Damage an agency's reputation, and you damage its ability to collect information – both from prospective agents, and other spy agencies.

It is possible, said Lapid, that someone who may have been willing to work with the Mossad, may now change his mind.

"The willingness of people to

cooperate with us is not something concrete. They like to cooperate with somebody strong, professional and with a good name. It happens many times that when the image changes – the image of the country in general and the intelligence agencies in particular – things change. The willingness to cooperate is influenced by our image.

The importance of image can be likened to the choice a person makes on what airline to fly, said a source well acquainted with the intelligence community. "If you have a choice to fly Aeroflot or Swissair," he said, "which airline are you going to choose?"

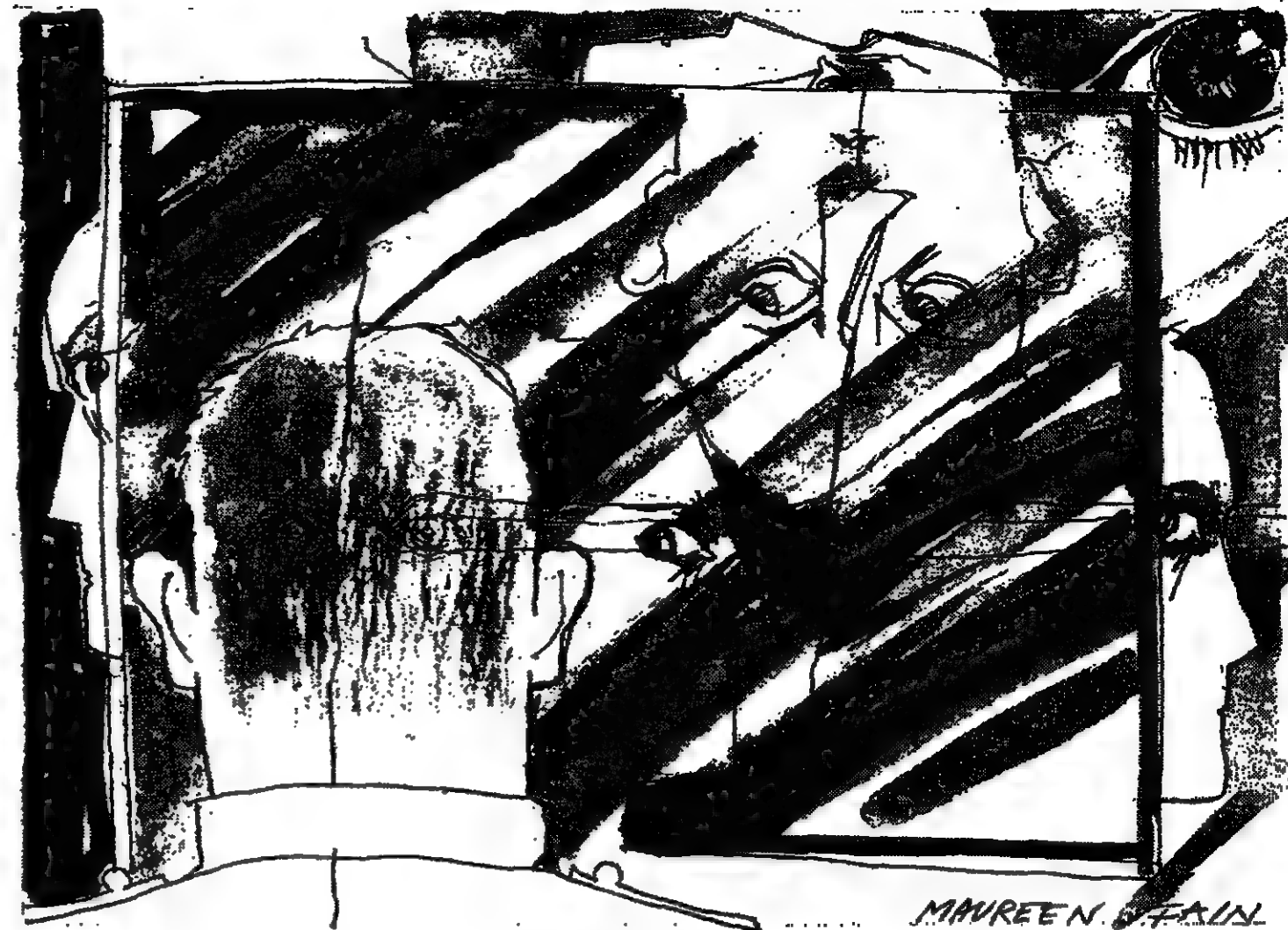
BENNY MORRIS, co-author of *Israel's Secret Wars: The Untold History of Israeli Intelligence*, said "If you are trying to recruit an agent in Europe or wherever, and you say you are from the Mossad, if the man respects the organization, thinks he will be paid properly, that he will be protected, and that there won't be leaks, then the job is easier. But if the organization has a reputation that it is full of leaks and people who make up stories, then he will think twice and three times about joining up."

Having said that, Morris, a professor of history at Ben-Gurion University and a central figure in what has become known as the school of "new" or "revisionist" Zionist historians, said he can't measure the damage of the Gil Affair.

"The Mossad is not crawling with 5,000 people all making up stories," Morris said. "As far as we know, it is one incident in 40 or 50 years of someone making up stories for political purposes and self-importance."

According to Morris, one possible repercussion will be that "it might raise new inhibitions or new doubts that this is a place people will want to go to if they want to give information to a Western intelligence organization."

"Remember, we are not the only people in the field; there are the British and Americans, and they are all trying to find about Iraq and Iran. If a guy wants to sell information, he might think it is safer



MUREEN O'FARRELL

Another look at Victor Ostrovsky

to do it with [Britain's] MI6."

On a completely theoretical level, said Uri Bialer, an international relations professor at the Hebrew University who has done research on intelligence and international relations, "intelligence agencies gather information both unilaterally and bilaterally, through connections with other agencies. In dealing with other agencies, this [the Gil Affair] is not positive."

But, Bialer said, "These things are universal. All intelligence agencies have affairs that show they are not dependable. This can – but does not always necessarily – have to – cause problems."

"I am convinced that when the British moles were revealed in the '50s and '60s, this did not help British intelligence in its relations with the CIA. That is the clearest metaphor I can give. I'm not saying this is our case, but something like this is definitely not desirable."

That is on the theoretical plane. In real life, said Lapid, this incident is not likely to impact that heavily on the Mossad's relations with other institutions.

The other intelligence agencies know how to keep a single incident in proportion," he said. "They have a history of feedback with us, and information from us on many different planes. They know our true abilities."

In other words, Lapid said, the CIA is not going to downgrade relations with the Mossad as a result of Yehuda Gil.

"The CIA knows exactly what we are worth, both for better and for worse," he said.

A COMPLETELY different area in which the aftershocks of the affair may well be felt, Morris said, is in the readiness of various Arab countries to trade information with Israel.

"This could cause damage between us and Arab states we are dealing with," Morris said. "They expect a certain amount of discretion and truthful information back and forth. If this man was feeding misinformation inside the organization, perhaps he was feeding real information outside the organization, maybe to his friends in Molelet."

"If [Jordan's King] Hussein or [Syrian President Hafez] Assad are negotiating with us, they don't exactly want Molelet or anyone else knowing secret communications. There are a number of different ways this can run badly for Israel."

The revelation of the Gil Affair, coming so soon after the Mash'al mishap in Jordan, raises an obvious question: What has happened to the country's vaunted security services?

"These two things coming together is potentially very bad," Morris said. "I wouldn't say disastrous, but very bad. But I think it is just coincidence. I don't believe the Mossad is simply going downhill and these are symptoms. I believe it is about at the same level it has been for years, and that these two things just happened at the wrong time."

According to Morris, the recruitment policies of the country's intelligence branches are the same as they have always been, and the training is also the same.

"In the past this was very effective and produced good results," Morris said. "Why should I now believe that everything is falling apart?"

The Yehuda Gil Affair might be bad for the Mossad and bad for Israel, but it's been great for Victor Ostrovsky.

Ostrovsky is the renegade Mossad agent who spent 14 months in the agency before being drummed out in the 1980s. He subsequently returned to his native Canada and wrote two damning books about the Mossad. The first, *By Way of Deception*, was for months the center of a storm, as the government sought unsuccessfully to ban its publication.

Yehuda Gil appears a number of times in Ostrovsky's book. "Next came Yehuda Gil's lecture on the subtleties of recruitment," Ostrovsky wrote of his days in the Mossad's training course. "Gil was a legendary *kassa* [case officer in charge of recruiting agents abroad], whom Ruff [commander of the training course] introduced as a master."

Ostrovsky wrote how Gil helped gather intelligence on the Iraqi nuclear weapons plant that was destroyed in an IAF raid in 1981, how he helped plan Operation Moses, which brought thousands of Ethiopian Jews here in 1985, and how he posed as a wealthy entrepreneur to recruit the brother of a high-ranking Syrian official. The brother gained information from his influential brother and, unbeknownst to him, passed it on to Israel.

"There are many Yehuda Gils in

the Mossad," he said. "There is almost no *kassa* who doesn't have an agent he handles, whom only he knows, and whom nobody else can talk to. Almost everyone makes sure that he has one person like this, so that he can continue to travel the world and meet with him. There are many case officers that not only do this for the trips, but who also take money meant for these agents."

One source well acquainted with the intelligence community angrily dismissed Ostrovsky's charges, saying they are complete nonsense. "He is a rogue even more than Gil," the source said. "Now he is riding on a wave. Who is he all of a sudden – the defender of justice?"

But Benny Morris, who co-authored *Israel's Secret Wars: The Untold History of Israeli Intelligence* – was not willing to dismiss as lies everything that Ostrovsky says. "He has told things that are true, revealed important secrets," Morris said, "but he has also made up things to pad his books. One cannot know when he is telling the truth."

– H.K.

'There are many Yehuda Gils in the Mossad,' Victor Ostrovsky said

When letting go is hard to do

By ALFRED KAPLAN SOMMER

When it comes to letting go, Yehuda Gil is not alone. In the murky world of international intelligence, the damage to Israel's reputation might be significant, experts tell Herb Keinon

Many people in positions of power commonly face difficulties and an identity crisis when it's time to retire.

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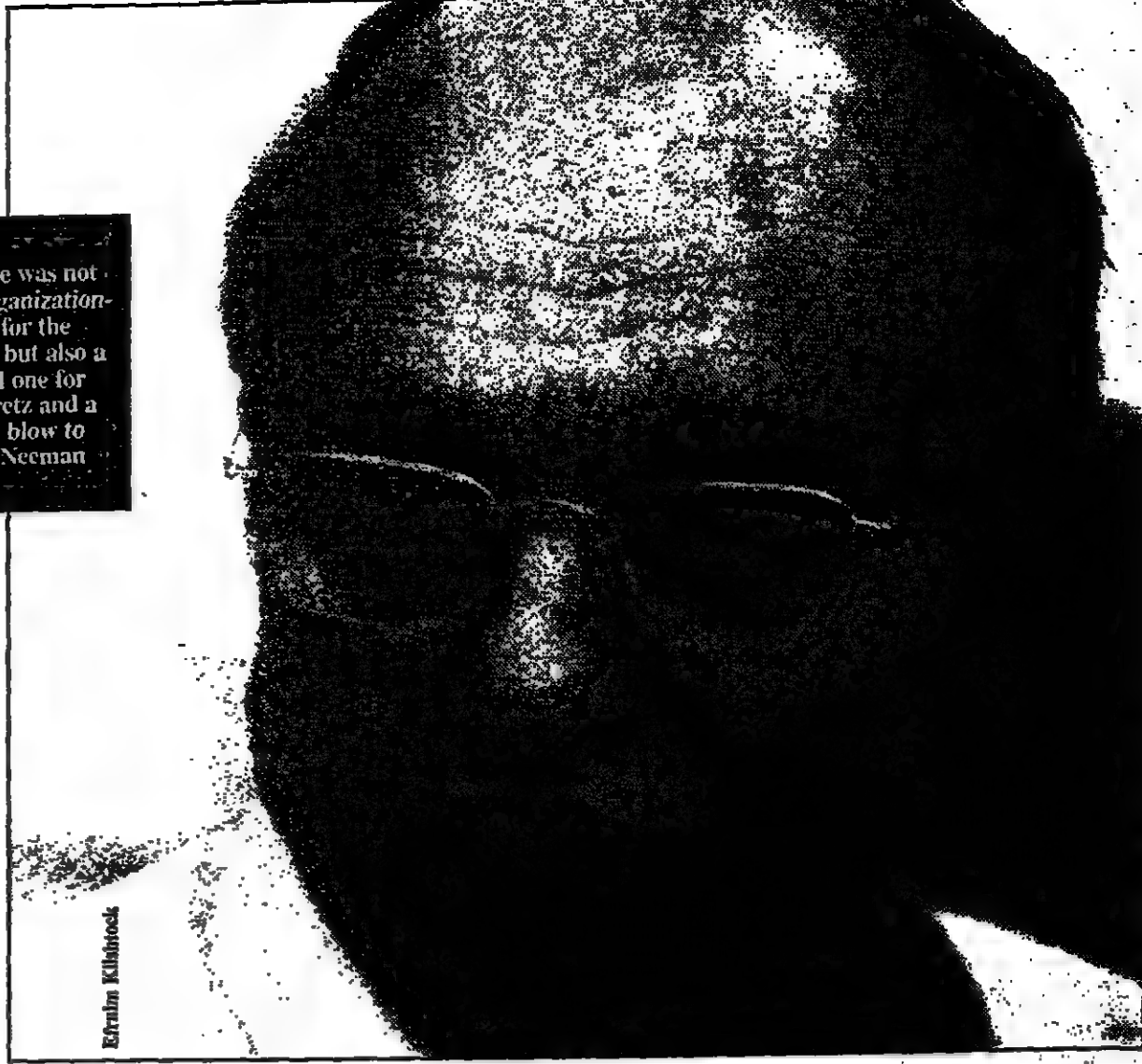
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The strike was not only an organizational win for the Histadrut but also a personal one for Amir Peretz and a political blow to Yaakov Neeman.



Winners and losers in the Histadrut strike

After the Histadrut and the Finance Ministry agreed on Monday afternoon to settle the five-day general strike, it was as easy to tell the winners from the losers as it is from watching the faces in the opposing teams' locker rooms after the Super Bowl. A laughing Histadrut secretary-general Amir Peretz was being lifted on the shoulders of his lieutenants. Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and his aides sat looking like they'd been hit by a tornado.

The strike, in which the labor federation won most of its pension demands, was not only an organizational win for the Histadrut but also a personal one for Peretz. Meanwhile, it was a political loss not only for Neeman, but also for Prime Minister Netanyahu, said veteran political analyst Haim Kristal.

As for Histadrut employees, there has always been a class divide between the highly-paid

workers and the poorly-paid ones. The strike, say analysts, was a victory for both classes, yet for different reasons. And most agree that one clear loser in the strike was the rule of law, which took a beating from both the Histadrut and the Finance Ministry.

Peretz comes out of the strike with greatly enhanced stature both within the 700,000-member labor federation, and within the Labor Party, which he also represents as an MK. His authority as Histadrut secretary-general has been vulnerable because he was not elected to the post, but rather inherited it from his predecessor, Labor MK Haim Ramon. Peretz hopes to put an end to any challenges in next June's Histadrut elections, and his management of the strike may have served to scare off all his potential opponents, the most prominent of whom is Geshet MK Maxim Levy. "Today running against against

Amir Peretz has emerged as a major electoral asset for the Labor party. Yaakov Neeman will be weaker as he enters budget negotiations. And the big loser? The rule of law, Larry Derfner reports

Amir Peretz for the leadership of the Histadrut is like running against Roni Milo (for mayor) in Tel Aviv," Kristal said.

On the political front, Kristal says the success of the strike makes Peretz, a Moroccan immigrant from the Negev development town of Sderot, a major electoral asset: a powerful politician with a social and economic message that appeals to working-class Sephardi voters.

"Labor hasn't had such a personality in its ranks in a long time. David Levy used to fill this role

for the Likud, but he's since left it behind (to become foreign minister). Now the tables are turned — Labor has Peretz, and the Likud doesn't have an answer to him," Kristal noted.

For Neeman, the story is reversed. He has enjoyed a reputation as a super-negotiator who was above party politics. But the strike "has brought him back down to earth," says Kristal, who adds that Neeman is now weakened as he enters the government's budget negotiations. This will encourage Geshet, led by David Levy, in its

demands for funding for social programs. "Peretz showed David Levy how to negotiate with Neeman, and Levy doesn't intend to come back with less than Peretz got," Kristal noted.

Neeman is an attorney, not an economist. He came into the Netanyahu cabinet in his desired capacity as justice minister, but lost that post when he was indicted on charges that he suborned a witness in the Aryeh Deri case. After he was acquitted, and Dan Meridor resigned as finance minister, Neeman took Meridor's

place. He now finds himself haggling day and night with union leaders. "This is not what he wants to do," said Kristal.

If Neeman is as frustrated in the budget negotiations as he was in the strike, Kristal said, "he could resign at the first opportunity. If Bibi tells him to give in on this, give in on that, Neeman won't allow himself to be mocked." And if Neeman resigns, it would be a severe blow to Netanyahu. "Since Avigdor Lieberman quit, Neeman is the only 'wise counselor' Netanyahu's got left, except for maybe [cabinet secretary] Danny Naveh," Kristal noted.

One of the questions raised by the strike, and by the Histadrut's overall activities over the decades, was whether the labor federation was acting equally on behalf of all its members, including the low-paid, low-skilled clerks and factory workers, or whether it was principally concerned with its well-paid, well-protected employees in large, powerful locals like the Israel Electric Corp., Bezeq and El Al. This question became more pointed in the general strike as it was the leaders of the strong locals who were pushing Peretz hardest to take a militant stand.

According to Prof. Dan Jacobson of Tel Aviv University's Department of Labor Studies, the central principle of the strike — protecting the pension benefits of

workers who do not get their pensions from the state budget, but rather from private provident funds — was of interest only to the "middle-class and lower-class" among Histadrut workers, because employees of the strong locals enjoy pensions from the state budget. In this sense, the strike worked mainly for the benefit of the lower-paid Histadrut members, said Jacobson.

The compromise reached on the pension adjustment agreement signed by Peretz and former finance minister Avraham Shohat in May 1996 — an agreement Neeman was forced into honoring — also worked to the benefit of lower-paid employees, Jacobson noted.

The leaders of the powerful locals were interested less in the substance of the strike and more in its larger significance. "Winning the strike meant that the Histadrut was alive and kicking," he said.

In decades past, the Histadrut had indeed been chiefly concerned with its well-heeled workers, Jacobson maintained. But the strike also won the labor federation recognition as a partner in talks with the Finance Ministry on such issues as child welfare allowances, health care, minimum wage and unemployment policy.

See WINNERS, Page 22

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مركز الاستثمار

The General under fire

Labor chairman Ehud Barak comes under stinging criticism in his party for his one-man-show style of leadership, Sarah Honig reports

Labor chairman Ehud Barak plans to convene his party's MKs and other higher-ups this morning to ask them for forgiveness, for any unintentional slights he may have committed — much as he apologized to Sephardi voters for the alleged wrongdoings of the party's founding fathers.

The "make nice" tactic is expected to smooth ruffled feathers in Labor and end the unpleasantness he faced at the party convention which took Barak by great surprise this week, according to a source close to Barak.

Barak had expected no hitches at the single-day convention last Sunday in Tel Aviv. He has had his share of scrapes since he took over Labor in the summer, but has always managed to prevail. He had had no inkling that anything would be different this time around.

From Barak's point of view the earlier convention sittings were success stories. In the first he managed to prevent his predecessor and nemesis Shimon Peres from assuming the unprecedented title of party president. While he was accused of being mean-spirited and incapable of magnanimity in victory, Barak got away with it and got his way.

The second session in Netivot had no business at all on the agenda. It was merely a background prop that gave Barak a stage to recite his apology to the Sephardim and make a pitch for their votes.

The actual business was left for the third convention session this week, when Barak's pet plan of putting a director-general of his own choosing in charge of party affairs was supposed to come up for approval. Delegates were also expected to rubber stamp a choice of 1,250 delegates for the party's powerful central committee.

Barak made sure well in advance that not a single controversial issue would come up for a vote. He never suspected that deciding the composition of the central committee would become so emotive a *caveat belli*.

What happened this week, according to MK Dalia Itzik, "is no new development," alleging that Barak has angered many by behaving for months as if he owns the party.

The problem is that he had not realized just how much emotion was pent up in Labor. People are walking around with acute belittles, but Barak doesn't care. Perhaps he just is not interested in what people around him think, feel and say. He is not attuned," says Itzik.

"One of the most essential prerequisites of a democratic leader is that he hears others around him. If he holds on to power, insensitive to everyone, then he is no democrat," she says.

"Barak's problem may stem from his years in the military. He took off his uniform not so long ago and then entered politics with a red-carpet welcome," Itzik adds.

The late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin "practically begged Barak to join the government and he has been spoiled ever since. He won the party leadership without much viable competition and it all per-

haps went too quickly and easily for him," she says.

"In short," Itzik continues, "Barak climbed up the ladder too fast to master the fine art of democratic conduct."

"What happened at this convention is that people finally dared to express what was building up inside them all along. Labor's politicians have crossed the psychological barrier which thus far has kept them from attacking Barak. Up to now he has been placed on a pedestal and protected from much obvious criticism because he was seen as Labor's last great hope. Nothing was to be uttered or done that might chip away at his luster."

Itzik does not entirely discount the theory that Labor members may have been emboldened to

will all willingly and obediently play along as so much window dressing. We will all play the parts of extras which Barak has scripted for us and will be grateful to him for these roles," says Pines.

In his view, the very fact that "Barak called a convention which was supposed to automatically ratify all he wanted, without dealing with anything contentious betrays his attitude."

"He needed us only to applaud and approve. This week brought no departures from the way he was running the party up until now. The convention was just such a surreal absurd gathering that it was like the straw that broke the backs of most of us."

"We felt toyed with to be summoned to a convention, which, in the final analysis, was nothing but a total waste of time. We came to the boring function, which had no purpose and no message. Thousands of people were called out to say and do nothing. Despite all that is happening in the Likud, we aren't taking off. It would be a dreadful mistake for us to sit and wait for the Likud to self-destruct."

Labor's in-house political scientist MK Shevah Weiss, a former Knesset Speaker, agrees that "what is expected now is for Labor to seize the opportunity afforded by the Likud's internal troubles. But this is easier said than done. Barak's announcement of a fund-raising drive for the campaign of '98 is not enough. The wish itself will not advance elections."

"The fact is that while the Likud and Labor are very different in temperament, many of the same problems plague both. The basic ill must be ascribed to the change wrought by the direct elections system for prime minister," Weiss maintains.

Weiss contends that "this disastrous American import has radically changed that relationship between a party and its leader. Our old parliamentary system, which shaped our political thinking and expectations, is one in which the leader arises from the party and remains accountable to it. We now have a system in which we no longer deal with parties that have leaders. We are now encountering a situation in which a leader also has a party. He is elected in a separate primary and must wage a separate campaign for premiership."

"The party may have different interests and sometimes the divergent interests are even inimical to each other. For the prime ministerial candidate his party may well become either a pesky encumbrance or a damaging liability."

"The individual leaders' personalities aside, this is what accounts for the basic friction between Netanyahu and the Likud and between Barak and Labor. These leaders," Weiss observes, "are often beset by their parties and wish they could get them out of

the way."

This is precisely the state of affairs which MK Ephraim Sneh had in mind this week when he called on Barak to set up "a leadership panel of at least a dozen MKs. Even the primary winner cannot run for the premiership on his own, sweeping his party under the rug."

"If Barak has a withered, weakened, meaningless party behind him, he will fail, regardless of all the bravado and confident rhetoric. Barak is not all-knowing and he is not infallible. He will lose if he doesn't learn to consult and to accept advice."

"So far he has not asked for input and he has not listened when counseled," Sneh continues. "Our faction has seven MKs who are *ma'abarot* alumni. Barak went

entered the auditorium. In contrast to Barak, he won standing ovations and palpable affection — despite the controversial nature of his message, which was explicit support for a Palestinian state and a withdrawal from the Golan Heights."

Nothing which Barak told the delegates generated any excitement. In the lobby, they were all up in arms about the alleged nefarious conspiracies of Ronni Bondi, Barak's right-hand man, who was popularly dubbed at the convention as Avigdor Lieberman's clone.

Bondi tried to pack the central committee with Barak loyalists, it was charged. To relieve some tension, Barak ended up agreeing to expand the committee to 2,000 members.

Barak's single victory at the session was on the director-general issue but his majority was so slim that presidium chairman David Liba'i pronounced it a loss. Only 665 delegates participated in the vote and Barak's proposal won by only a 20-vote



and apologized to the Sephardim without sounding them out. At best he ignores the party. At times he is disdainful of it."

MK Uri Baran is regarded in Labor as at least nominally Barak's No. 2 man, and is cited as one of the most loyal to him, but Baran does not dispute Sneh's bottom line.

"This party has no real leadership and that is our basic problem. Barak must set up some sort of a leadership team because as things stand now, there is no one who has anything good to say about him. A handful of MKs may rise to his defense but all they even ask is that he not be targeted for criticism."

"They too can't find much to compliment. Wherever I travel around the country I hear harsh criticism of Barak and, alas, I can't find much to say in his favor," Baran says.

These are the reasons why Barak was given such a cool reception at the convention, the disgruntled MKs say.

His entry into the hall failed to move the delegates and his speeches elicited little applause. A Barak aide argues that "this is not the Likud, so you can't expect a rousing rendition of 'Ehud King of Israel'."

Yet Laborites too know how to exhibit emotion, a fact which was well in evidence when Peres

margin, Liba'i declared the vote void. Barak could not even object. Things plainly did not go his way.

"If after all this, Barak still sees nothing wrong in his relations with his own party, then he is an amazing man who has thoroughly fooled himself or aims to fool us. Disavowing reality will not change the facts on the ground," says MK Hagai Merom, Barak's most uncompromising critic.

Merom denies being motivated by a personal vendetta over Barak foiling his bid to be elected party secretary-general.

"True I sought the job but Barak loaded the odds in Ra'anan Cohen's favor because he is a Sephardi and a yes-man. I lack both qualifications. But the job will be devoid of content anyhow if he somehow manages to appoint a director-general to lord it over all of us," Merom says. "Barak knows how to manipulate and his ability as a double-dealer should not be dismissed just because he is so new to politics."

"The fact that he is new makes him vulnerable because no one in the party looks up to him as we did to Rabin and Peres. He must learn to treat us as equals," Merom adds.

Even MK Avraham Shohat, the former finance minister whom Barak put in charge of his campaign fund-raising drive, thinks that "if so many people say the

same thing, there must be something to it. I spoke to Barak about setting up a leadership team and he told me that if he selects a dozen men...he will have honored them, but they will actually have little to do, [since] we are in the opposition. While there will be 12 massaged egos, everyone else will be deeply offended."

"My answer to Barak was that he has no choice and that the leader must be able to cope with the frustrations of those left out of the coveted inner sanctum," Shohat says.

Those who appear certain to avoid exclusion from Barak's inner circle are two of Barak's most acerbic erstwhile foes — MK Yossi Bellin who ran against him in the primary and MK Haim Ramon who crossed swords with Barak in the 1996 elections campaign which they managed together.

They were the only two to admonish other faction members for their anti-Barak onslaught. The consensus in Labor is that the two are trying to secure niches near the center of power.

Ramon especially has been counseling Barak about how to handle the party. The word in Labor is that the press conference early in the week, in which Barak declared that he is no dictator, was Ramon's idea.

The prediction in the party is that Ramon will prescribe more of the same for today's let-by-gones-by-gones session. But Barak must "engage in more than 'honored lip-service,'" Merom warns.

"There must be a real sincere overhaul in his attitude to the party."

"He must honestly accept that this is not a one-man operation and that we are not despised underlings. Otherwise his disingenuous blandishments will be every bit as ludicrous and lacking in credibility as his questionable apology to the Sephardim, when he bravely beat the breasts of deceased generations."

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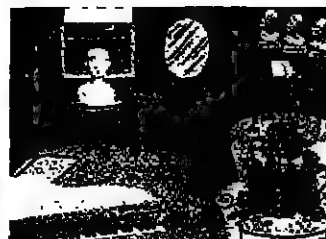
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NIS 79

Mixed messages from Teheran

Iran spared no effort to stake out a new image of respectability at this week's Islamic summit. But the new image turned out to be blurred, writes Abraham Rabinovich

Visitors calling on the late leader of Iran's Islamic revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, were received in a tiny, spartan room — a setting befitting the head of a revolutionary movement which had abjured the glittering trappings of modernity for true faith.

The guests arriving for this week's Islamic conference in Teheran were received by his successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in an atmosphere of lavishness that evoked comparisons to the most hedonistic conjurings of the late shah.

In the two months preceding the conference, thousands of engineers and workmen working round the clock in four shifts constructed six luxury hotels and a magnificent conference hall. In addition, to accommodate visiting heads of state they restored palaces belonging to the shah and his family to a standard said to be even more luxurious than the original. Iran's leading architects were employed in the project for which the Iranian parliament had approved a massive budget of 250 million rials.

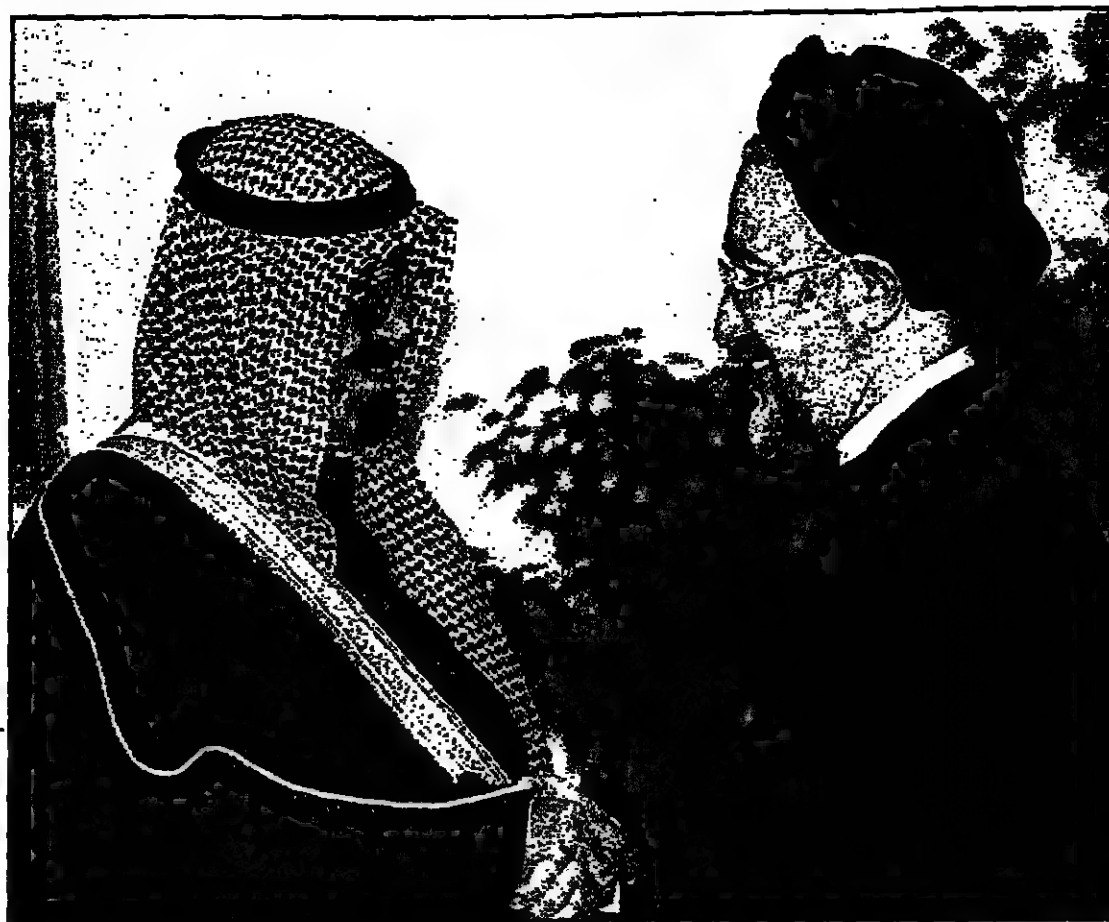
For long a pariah state, even to much of the Arab world because of its use of state terror and its presumption of Islamic leadership, Iran spared no effort this week to stake out a new image of respectability by hosting a conference which drew representatives from 55 Islamic countries from

East Asia to North Africa. The new image turned out to be striking but blurred. President Mohammed Khatami, the white hope of those who seek a turning to moderation in Iran, delivered a remarkable speech calling for an "Islamic civil society" and saying that Islam had much to learn from the West. However, a contrary message was delivered by Supreme Leader Khamenei who focused on the "global arrogance" of the West.

"Until now it's all been cosmetics, not substance," said Hebrew University Professor Emanuel Sivan of the conference. Iran has not resolved any of its disputes even with its Arab neighbors, including disputes with the Emirates over islands in the Gulf. It has not, Sivan noted, revoked the death sentence against author Salman Rushdie, nor responded to signals from European countries that imprisoned Iranian terrorists would be released if Teheran publicly pledges never to repeat its assassination attempts on foreign soil.

The conflicting nature of the speeches made by Khamenei and Khatami reflected deep differences within Iranian society — revolutionary zeal versus intellectual openness. The one theme the two leaders could agree on was hostility towards Israel. Even Khatami attacked "the racist, aggressive and violent nature of the Zionist regime."

Prof. David Menashri, who



Iranian President Mohammed Khatami (right) with Saudi Foreign Minister Crown Prince Abdullah at the Islamic summit. (AP/Candian Press)

holds the Nazari Chair for Modern Iranian Studies at Tel Aviv University, notes that "animosity towards Israel and the US has become such an important symbol that any retreat could affect the prestige of the revolution." Khatami did indeed soften the rhetoric towards the US but Israel continued to serve the Iranian leadership as an unfaded red flag.

Nevertheless, the growing internal debate between moderates and conservatives in Iran, Israeli experts agree, may lead to changes

that will ultimately affect attitudes towards Israel as well.

"There are no basic differences between Israel and Iran — not strategically, politically or historically," says Menashri. "The Iranian regime has tried to turn the Palestinian issue into a major symbol of the revolution and a rallying point. But now that the Palestinians are negotiating with Israel there are questions being asked in Iran about the wisdom of trying to be more pious than Arafat. There is a soul-searching process under way. We have to wait and see how this process matures."

Reuven Merhav, counselor at the Israeli embassy in Teheran from 1974 until the downfall of the shah in 1978, notes the growing disaffection among broad sections of the Iranian population towards the regime of the clerics. "Khatami was elected mainly by women and young people," he points out. There is unrest even among senior clerics like Grand Ayatollah Khomeini. Ali Montazeri, one of the fathers of the revolution, who was placed under house arrest after calling for an end to clerical rule. A leading Islamic philosopher, Abdel Karim Sorush, likewise incurred the regime's wrath when

he called for separation of mosque and state.

"All this is happening," says Merhav, "against the background of a conference, including 30 heads of state, that no one five years ago thought could take place in Iran. Certainly not with this kind of internal controversy going on."

Israeli experts relate to the prospects for change in Iran with varying degrees of hope. "The expectation is that liberalization within Iran will eventually lead to changes in foreign policy as well," says Sivan. "But that's a long-term affair and I think exaggerated hopes have been placed on Khatami."

Merhav believes there is room for "cautious optimism," although Menashri says he is unaware of any signal that Israel has received from Teheran that would encourage hopes for change. "But the situation obliges Israel to closely follow developments without bias and if necessary, to reevaluate its policies." There can be little doubt that Israel will be observing Iran from now on not just as a patron of Islamic militancy and a potential nuclear threat but as a society that may be searching for a new identity.

A 'moderate' voice

Excerpts from the speech by Iranian president Mohammed Khatami at the opening of the Islamic Summit Conference this week in Teheran:

Our predicament is that the Islamic Ummah (nation), once a flag-bearer of knowledge, thought and civilization, has in recent centuries elapsed into weakness and backwardness and worse still has even failed, due to the consequent painful state of passivity vis-a-vis the ostentatious dominant civilization of the time, to properly utilize the fruits of its civilization. Our centuries-old passivity is the outcome of the decline of a once-shining humane civilization whose achievements and remnants are still praiseworthy and to which the dominant world civilization is truly indebted.

Today, the replication of the old civilization is neither possible,

for its time is long gone, nor desirable even if it were possible. Civilizations continue to live as long as they possess the capacity to respond to the ever-renewing questions and the ever-changing needs of man, otherwise they are doomed to demise. The questions and needs of man in our time are in many ways different from those of our predecessors. Our passivity in recent centuries in the face of Western civilization — which is itself a natural response to the quest of Western man — is due to the fact that for various reasons we have ceased to question. The absence of questioning leads to the absence of thought which in turn leads to inevitable passivity and subjugation vis-a-vis others.

The people who created one of the most glorious civilizations in history still enjoy the potential to create another provided that they lend themselves to reason and reflection. We will only succeed in moving forward along this path if we possess the requisite capacity to utilize the positive scientific, technological and social accomplishments of Western civilization — a stage we must inevitably go through to reach the future. Painful and bitter though we find

the passivity and backwardness of the Moslem countries, nevertheless, the mere happy reminder that we can transform our destiny is a matter of elation. We must dedicate ourselves to the realization of the "Islamic civil society" in our respective countries. [This] is fundamentally different from the "civil society" that is rooted in Greek philosophical thinking and Roman political tradition. The two, however, are not necessarily in conflict. We should never be oblivious to judicious acquisition of the positive accomplishments of Western civil society.

Taking abode in the "common Islamic home" does not mean regression, withdrawal from the modern world or seeking conflict with others. On the contrary, it is only after such a return to the common identity that we can live in peace with other peoples and nations.

"The absence of questioning leads to the absence of thought which in turn leads to inevitable passivity and subjugation vis-a-vis others"

The government [in an Islamic civil society] is the servant of the people. Our civil society is not a society in which only Moslems are entitled to rights and are considered citizens. The rejection of domination means the rejection of force and duplicity in relations with other nations and their

replacement with logic and the principle of mutual respect in international relations. History shows that no peace has ever embraced success without justice and consideration for the aspirations of the people concerned. As the crisis in the Middle East has made clear, genuine peace can be established only through the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the inalienable right to self-determination, return of refugees, liberation of the occupied territories, in particular al-Quds [Jerusalem].

It is a fact, though, that the hegemonic, racist, aggressive and violent nature of the Zionist regime, empty manifested in systematic and gross violation of the international law, pursuit of state terrorism and developments of weapons of mass destruction, seriously threatens peace and security in the region.

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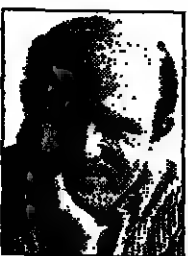
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By AMOTZ ASA-EL

After watching helplessly while a succession of fiascos tarnished our most prestigious institutions, the false-information scandal finally can offer some of the relief, pride and hope which we have grown to miss.

In the nightmarish year which is drawing to a close we saw two soldier-laden IAF helicopters collide with each other; the GSS groping in the dark to identify a few terrorists' bodies; the Shayetet 13 naval commando unit losing in one battle more warriors than it had since its creation; and the Mossad flunking it big-time while trying to eliminate a pedestrian on a Jordanian sidewalk.

Understandably, one is tempted to add to this depressing checklist our once glorious spy agency's apparent failure to notice that a substance it had been gulping for two decades was actually toxic.

And yet, disheartening though the phenomenon he represents may be, at the end of the day

Sleeping with the enemy

Yehuda Gil's assessments were dismissed, first by prime minister Shimon Peres who didn't buy the now-disgraced agent's reading into Syria's political aims, then by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who rejected Gil's exegesis of Syrian military moves.

Ever shrouded by well-molded James Bondian veneers of charm, courage, wit and violence, spies have traditionally set laymen's imaginations on fire and swept romantics off their feet.

And yet, even legendary spies — from Dutch dancer Mata Hari, who in World War I milked, fed and slept with a host of Allied and German officials until she was shot by the French, to "Cicero," the servant in Britain's Turkish Embassy who leaked to Germany the plans for D-Day in return for a hefty payment (in counterfeit bills) — never changed the course of history.

In fact, spies have time and again failed to see the forest beyond the trees. Even the scout contingent dispatched to Canaan by the wandering Israelites erred colossal in its majority's report that the Promised Land was impenetrable and prone to "eat up the inhabitants thereof."

IN THE winter of 1968, I attended a senior intelligence researcher's

lecture at the Foreign Ministry. The subject was Mikhail Gorbachev's new policies.

"This whole perestroika [economic reform] business is a PR campaign," he assured us. "And as for Jewish emigration, the floodgates are nowhere near bursting open, and at any rate I'd be exaggerating if I said that the overall potential we're talking about exceeds the neighborhood of 100,000 people." One must now blush at the thought of just how soon and how grandly those sweeping statements were proven unfounded.

Similarly, US spies failed to foresee the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Mossad had no inkling of the Syrian-Egyptian attack in 1973, the KGB scoffed at the Islamic obstacle in Afghanistan, Britain's intelligence didn't anticipate the Falklands invasion, the GSS did not predict the intifada, and the CIA failed to forecast Khomeini's rise to power, not to mention communism's wholesale collapse.

These failures of insight are so glaring, abysmal and common that decision-makers would do well to refrain from leading an ear to intelligence services' pretentious analyses about where the enemy — let alone the world — is bound. Instead, they should dwell exclusively on the tactical, and let the broader picture be assembled by

real scholars.

The day Konstantin Chernenko died in 1985, Hebrew University Sovietologist Amnon Sela gave us a lecture on the history of the Red Army. Asked where the USSR was bound, he answered cautiously: "If that Gorbachev guy gets the appointment, then it's a new beginning, whereby the Soviets' economic weaknesses will have to be treated amid increasingly open ethnic strife."

It was a modest intellectual's well-studied, and ultimately vindicated, insight, which quietly contradicted arrogant, budget-gobbling spy agencies which contended that the world would continue to be split along that dated East-West axis, which defined the Cold War era in which they were shaped.

Spies should be expected to tell us how many tanks are lurking beyond that mountain ridge, what a certain individual's schedule looks like, or how a particular airport is guarded. They can also be good for kidnapping Adolf Eichmann or Mustafa Dirani, killing Fathi Shikhi or Abu Jihad, or stealing documents from US officials, as Jonathan Pollard did, or from the Kremlin, as the Mossad had done with Khrushchev's secret speech, which heralded his de-Stalinization policy.

Dry Bones



MOVIE REVIEW



Rashi Shalom

Through the eyes of a father

By RASHI SHALOM

"Jacob thus came to his father at Mamre, at Kiryat Arba, better known as Hebron..." (Gen 35:27)

At which point in his life does Jacob reach maturity? One suggestion is that it happened the night he wrestled with the mysterious stranger and received the new appellation Israel. (32:29) But if so, why does he take huge steps toward maturity until he is ready to return to his father's house, chapters which include the massacre of the residents of Shechem and the transgression of Reuben? The Jacob who prayed that God "return him in peace to his father's house" at the beginning of his journey (28:21) ought not have dallied so long before returning home.

I would suggest that maturity consists of two things: first of all, a proud sense of self-identity and, secondly — but not second in importance — the ability to transcend filial relationships and sibling rivalries. Jacob's is the most carefully delineated of the patriarchal personalities.

In the first instance, Jacob had difficulty expressing his true personality. The Bible informs us: "Esau was a man who knew how to (en)trap, a man of the fields; and Jacob was a wholehearted man, a dweller in tents." (Gen. 25:27) Whereas Esau is naive and disingenuous, Esau is deceptive and forthright; whereas Jacob is a student who labors to acquire knowledge, Esau is a hunter who amasses objects.

The very next verse is the source of much familial tragedy: "And Isaac loved Esau because the trap was in his mouth, and Rebecca loved Jacob." (25:28) Every child, no matter how old or accomplished, yearns for parental approval. Hence one can hardly blame Jacob for believing that if he were only more worldly, smooth of tongue and rich like Esau, perhaps his father would begin to love him more. From this perspective, Jacob's willingness to pose as Esau becomes much more understandable.

It is now more understandable why Jacob sets out with such alacrity for Laban; he hopes to learn the "tricks of the trade." This is the force behind the verse: "And Isaac sent Jacob, and he [Jacob] went to Padan Aram, to Laban the son of Bethuel the Aramean, the brother of Rebekah, mother of Jacob and Esau." (28:5) For Jacob, this is not only an escape from Esau; it is also — and primarily — a journey in search of his father's love.

Jacob succeeds in out-Labanning Laban in the art of deception, and becomes a wealthy man. However, with the birth of his beloved Joseph and his desire that his favored son attain spiritual heights, Jacob realizes that he is not Esau, that his fundamental personality is that of the wholehearted student of Torah, and that he must be true to himself. Jacob is now ready to hear the Divine voice urging him to leave Laban. (31:13)

He wrestles with a being that our sages identify as the power or spirit of Esau; I would suggest that he successfully exorcises the dybbuk of Esau that is threaten-

ing to overwhelm his personality, and emerges as the individual Jacob — Israel, secure in his identity and goals. He is now able to give much of his material wealth to Esau and return "whole" in identity to his birthplace. (33:18)

To his birthplace — but not yet to his father's house. Jacob is still angered by the fact that his father still does not love him; he is also haunted with guilt and remorse over his act of deception. Therefore he is not yet ready to "return in peace to [his] father's house."

THE BIBLE now says Jacob as a father — and records the challenge of a paterfamilias. His sons Simeon and Levi deceive and embarrass him by killing the people of Shechem, but he cannot really blame his sons too much for doing to their father what he did to his father. Deborah, Rebekah's nursemaid, who apparently helped raise Jacob, dies during the journey; Rebekah's name notably absent from the account. Is it possible that Jacob is now angry at his mother for having encouraged his deception, and this is the way the Bible hints at his feelings? And then Jacob's beloved wife Rachel dies in childbirth, in large measure owing to her life regarding the household idols she had stolen from her father's home (chapter 35).

But the most difficult incident is to follow: "And Reuben went and slept with Bilhah, his father's concubine." (35:22) Our Sages interpret this to mean that Reuben took Jacob's couch out of Bilhah's tent and placed it in his mother Leah's tent after the death of Rachel. In either case, Reuben committed a disgraceful act vis-à-vis his father.

The traditional biblical text provides for an empty space in the midst of the verse that records this incident, which then concludes "and the children of Jacob were 12."

What is the meaning of the space? Perhaps Jacob wept in anger and frustration over his son's disrespect. He may even have thought of banishing Reuben, of doing to his eldest son what Abraham did to Ishmael. But then perhaps he thought he shared in the guilt; after all, he had never given Reuben the love and approbation he should have bestowed upon his firstborn. Perhaps Reuben was crying out in pain, at one and the same time displaying anger against his father and trying to become closer to him.

And at that moment Jacob sees his relationship to Isaac, not through the eyes of a son, but through the eyes of a father. Yes, his father made mistakes, but so has he, Jacob, made mistakes as a father. From this perspective, Jacob ceases to be angry at his father and understands how emotions can overcome logic in the familial context.

Moreover, Jacob realizes how important it is to keep the family together, to forgive one's children and accept them despite their wrongdoings. And just as Jacob is ready to accept Simeon and Levi and even Reuben, he realizes that his father will be willing to accept him. Now Jacob can return in peace to his father's house.

Shabbat Shalom

A VIEW FROM NOV



By MOSHE KOHN

The name Jacob/Ya'acov is one of many biblical names for which the Tanach gives or hints at a meaning.

God renames Patriarch Avram, Jacob's grandfather, "Avraham/Abraham," because "I have made you the father of a multitude of nations" (Genesis 17:5). Abraham and his wife, Sarah, in turn, name their son Yitzhak/Isaac, a name that is related to the root of laughter, the letters *yod-het-kaf*. The Torah implies they so named him because Sarah laughed when she overheard the angel tell Abraham she would conceive at age 90 (Genesis 18:12), and because after giving birth to Isaac she said God had made her a laughingstock for bearing a child at her age (Genesis 21:6).

Isaac and his wife, Rebecca, in turn, name the younger of their twin sons Ya'acov/Jacob because, the Torah implies, when he and his twin brother, Esau, were born, his hand "had hold of Esau's heel" (Genesis 25:27). "Heel" in Hebrew is "akav," which is composed of the last three letters of

Ya'acov, *ayin-kaf-vet*.

The latter is also the root of "follow," reflecting Jacob's following Esau in being born. It is also the root of "deceive/deceit," "cheat," "crooked," and after Esau discovered that Jacob had received the blessing Isaac had intended for him, he remarked: "The name Ya'acov really fits him, for he twice cheated me: he took my birthright, and now he has taken my blessing" (Genesis 27:36).

In the Torah portion read in tomorrow morning's synagogue service (Genesis 32:4-36:43), Jacob acquires a new name.

On the night before Jacob's reunion with Esau after more than two decades, an unidentified man appears and wrestles with him all night. Finally the mysterious stranger says: "Let me go, for dawn is breaking." Jacob says: "I'm not letting you go until you bless me!" The man asks him for his name, and he tells him: "Ya'acov."

The man says: "No longer 'Ya'acov' shall your name be called, but 'Yisrael [Israel]'; for you strove with God and with people and prevailed."

The man blesses him and leaves. Shortly afterwards, God appears to Jacob in a vision and repeats the mysterious stranger's declaration.

Curiously, the Torah goes on to call him Ya'acov — as does the rest of the Tanach — as frequently as, if not more frequently than, they call him Yisrael. But "Children of Israel" became the name of the nation he fathered, and "Israel"

the name of the land they inherited. The classical Hebrew designations Am Yisrael/the People Israel and just Yisrael/Israel mean "the Jewish people" and not just the biblical or modern state of Israel or their denizens.

THE SURNAME *Yisrael/Yisraelin*, common among Jews from Morocco, is a Berber diminutive of the Hebrew Ya'acov. According to the Interior Ministry's Population Registry, 5,836 Israeli Jews bore this name in 1995, ranking it 57th among the 200 most common surnames in Israel listed in Avraham Ariel's *Sefer Hashemot* ("The Book of Names," Defense Ministry Publishing House, 1997). Ya'acov itself ranks 29th, with 7,604 bearers.

The first recorded "Yisraelin" appears in the name of the rabbi/physician/poet Yosef ben Yehuda ben Shimon ben Yisrael (1160-1226), who was born at Ceuta, Morocco.

It is one of several core derivatives of or forms in which Ya'acov appears.

Some other examples are Jacobso(e)n in the various Anglo-Saxon and Germanic dialects, borne by both Jew and non-Jew; Yakobovitch (Jacobowitz/Jakobovitz).

Yakovovitch (Yakovovitch) and Yakovovitch (Yakovovitch) in the Slavic dialects; Hagopian in Armenian, borne by both Jew and non-Jew; Yakovovitch in Georgian; Jakobescu/Jakobovici in Romanian; Ya'acovov (D), mainly

among Jews from the southern reaches of the former Soviet Union (145th in Ariel's list); Ya'acobi (Jacobowitz/Jacobovitch).

Several surprising and interesting derivatives are listed by Edwin Lawson, emeritus professor of psychology at the State University of New York at Fredonia and past president of the American Name Society, in a paper on "Jacob and His Sons: Their Impact on Hebrew and Jewish Onomastics." He read the paper at the 25th Annual Names Institute in New York City last year, and it is to appear in the Athens-based *Onomasticon* journal.

One of the derivatives he lists is the surname Kaufman(n), it means "buyer" in German, and is thought to indicate that its original bearers were merchants. According to Bezalel Kaganoff's *Dictionary of Jewish Names and Their History* (NY, Schocken, 1977), however, it really stems from Ya'acov via Yakovman, through Yakofman and Kofman.

The Jewish surname Kafka also stems from Ya'acov, via the diminutive Koppel, through Koppel, and Koppel also gives us such names as Koppeloff and Kopolovitch (witz).

Another interesting byproduct is the surname Wurm/Wurm(n). This is inspired by Isaiah 41:13-14: "... God, your god, is holding your hand, saying to you, 'Fear not... you worm Jacob...'"

Another is Tam, inspired by Genesis 25:27: "... Jacob was a tam [simple, innocent, quiet] person, a

lent-sinner."

Ya'acov also gives us, via the Latin Jacobus/Jacomus, the Anglo James(on), Jamie (male and female), and Jim(my), the Spanish and Portuguese Jaime (pronounced Ha-ee-may), the Scottish Hamish, and the Irish and Scots Gaelic Seamus/Shamus/Semmas.

A few other derivatives are the French Jacques and Jacqueline; the Italian Giacomo; and the Welsh Iago; the Cornish Iago (*Bloomsbury Dictionary of First Names* by Julia Cresswell, London, 1992).

Lawson has published a 70-page annotated bibliography on "Some Jewish Personal Names" in the recently published *These Are the Names* (Ramat Gan, Bar-Ilan University Press). This contains nine of the 22 papers delivered at the First International Conference on Jewish Onomastics held at Bar-Ilan four years ago, and was co-edited by Bar-Ilan history professor Aaron Demsky, Dr. Yosef Reif and Prof. Yosef Tabori.

In an article on "Names and Names in Ruth," Demsky concludes that the author of the Book of Ruth, by his choice of names, "has skillfully developed a historical tradition about [King] David's ancestors into a story of human kindness, transforming a tale of personal tragedy into a story of national significance with universal implications for the fellowship of humanity."

E-mail comments to moshe@jpost.co.il. Please include home address.

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A new Anne takes the stage

Broadway's 'The Diary of Anne Frank' is more Jewish and more sombre than the earlier version, writes Marilyn Henry

Anne Frank returned to Broadway last week, and a friend of mine immediately bought tickets to take her young son. He will meet an Anne with a profoundly different message from that of her predecessor on stage and screen, the Anne that I met more than 30 years ago.

The *Diary of Anne Frank* has been revived as a play, based on the latest version of the journal of the precocious Jewish girl who, with seven others, spent two years hiding in an attic in Amsterdam before they were deported to a concentration camp. All but Otto Frank, Anne's father, died.

The revival was born after the 1995 publication of the "definitive edition" of Anne Frank's diary. This edition added a substantial amount of intimate material that had been excised by Otto Frank from the earlier version, which was first published in Dutch in 1947



Israeli-born actress Natalie Portman in the new Broadway production of 'The Diary of Anne Frank'

and translated into 56 languages.

The staged new "adaptation" of her diary, after a 50-year hiatus, conveys a character who is fuller and far more thoughtful. This play seems like a chronicle of life in the secret annex than the story of an unusual girl coming of age in extraordinary circumstances.

The Anne of my generation, of

the original 1955 script by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, was a saccharine character who was only minimally Jewish. She was portrayed as an inspirational, idealistic teenager whose enduring message to theater- and moviegoers was an impossibly optimistic belief that "in spite of everything, people are really good at heart."

The generation meeting the 1997 Anne, as written by Wendy Kesselman, finds a burdened child who is keenly aware of the horrors committed just beyond the attic. "I feel wicked sleeping in a warm bed when my friends are at the mercy of the cruellest monsters ever to walk the earth - and all because they are Jews," says

Anne, who is beautifully played by an Israeli-born actress, Natalie Portman, the 16-year-old granddaughter of Auschwitz survivors. "I feel the suffering of millions."

This is a significant and gratifying difference: less optimism, more realism. But it is not enough to carry the play. No play, of course, can do justice to the diary, but this one tries to force too much material into two acts. The effect often seems like a smorgasbord of one-liners that hint at profound thoughts and situations without revealing them.

Unlike the earlier script, which sanitized the ethnic background of the eight Jews hiding in the attic, the Kesselman play is emphatically Jewish.

Fragments of Judaism occur at nearly regular intervals. In one especially powerful scene, when the Franks and van Daans arrive at the attic and remove their coats, Anne rips the yellow star from her black sweater. But a shadow of the star remains, its exaggerated image seared into the faded cloth. In the Hanukkah scene, the characters sing a hearty version of "Rock of Ages" in a heavy Ashkenazi Hebrew, not the generic holiday song favored in the original play. Peter van Daan says that when the war is over he wants to be Christian, while Anne tells him that he will always be Jewish. The play even dips into Zionism when, in a moment of fantasy about the possibility of a life after the secret annex, where they hid between June 12, 1942, and August 1, 1944, Anne's sister, Margot, says she would like to be a nurse in Palestine.

With these touches, the adaptation of the diary is truer to its Jewish roots than the previous, Pulitzer Prize-winning version. But are all these references necessary? In one instance, the stage lights focus briefly to give a glimpse of a tall, wrapped man praying in the attic. It is a moment that seems absolutely gratuitous, as if Kesselman is trying to compensate for the ethnic cleansing of the previous version.

Kesselman also has been more faithful to Anne by including numerous references to her

The Stolen Legacy of Anne Frank, Magazine Page 20

blooming sexuality, many of which had been jettisoned by Otto Frank from the earlier version of the diary. But, their addition seems to be Kesselman's bow to political correctness, rather than a meaningful addition to the script. These tales of puberty seem to be just one more element to shoehorn into the two acts.

The revival of the play was preceded by controversy and challenge. In a scorching essay in *The New Yorker* two months ago, writer Cynthia Ozick fumed about "Who Owns Anne Frank?" Anne Frank's story, Ozick wrote in a spate of anger directed at the previous versions, has been "bowdlerized, distorted, transmuted, traduced, reduced; it has been infantilized, Americanized, homogenized, sentimentalized, falsified, kitschified, and, in fact, blatantly and arrogantly denied."

That didn't happen here. There are no uplifting parting lines to close this script and allow the audience to leave the theater in a hopeful mood.

Instead, the play ends in a tragic juxtaposition of contrasts: When the Nazis barge in, Anne, Margot and Peter van Daan are in another room, happily gorging on fresh strawberries. It is their laughter that betrays them to the Nazis.

The *Diary of Anne Frank* is such an icon, and the story is so imperative, it seems vulgar to carp about the details of the new script. What matters is simply that Anne Frank is back on Broadway, where her story, our history, can reach my friend's young son and this new generation, who will welcome her and bid her an honest farewell.

GRAPEVINE

BY GREER FRYCASHMAN

Christmas queries

Although there is little evidence of Christmas in Israel, let it not be said that Israelis are not conscious of it. Elizabeth Scholes, first secretary, and Louise Miller, information assistant at the British Embassy, can testify to that. Last Christmas, despite a message on the embassy switchboard explicitly directing British citizens in dire straits to emergency numbers they could call, Scholes received several phone calls from Israelis wanting to know when shops reopened in London after Christmas. This year, Miller has already received countless calls from Israelis wanting to know the dates of Christmas sales.

Greek Consul-General George Marcantonatos kicked up their heels in a lively display of traditional Greek dancing. The diplomats, who were attending a dinner hosted by the Cyprus Tourism Board, maintained their decorum for the longest possible time.



Robin Andrew Kealy, the new British consul-general (Bochicho)

IT WON'T be an auction, but it will bring in a lot of money. One of the largest gatherings of royals in New York is expected at Sotheby's this Monday at a gala champagne reception and dinner to benefit the Mentor Foundation, an independent, privately funded, apolitical organization established to reduce the demand for drugs among the world's young people. Mentor raises money and transfers knowledge to enable other organizations to operate more effectively "to help the helpless." Among those attending will be Queen Silvia of Sweden, Queen Noor of Jordan, Crown Prince Henri of Luxembourg, Crown Prince Felipe of Spain, Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Prince Dimitri of Yugoslavia, Crown Prince Pavlos of Greece and Crown Princess Marie-Chantal of Greece. Chairing the glittering event is Mrs. Alfred Tanbman, wife of the chairman of Sotheby's who, though not exactly a blue-blood, is a royal of sorts. Prior to her marriage, she was known as Yehudit Mizrahi and was an Israeli beauty queen.

AFTER a nine-year absence in the US, actress Caroline Langford returned to Israel this week to explore some showbiz options. Langford has been living in Manhattan, where she operated a pet-care service. She opted to work with dogs rather than on the entertainment circuit because "I didn't want to start at the bottom of the ladder again. My ego wouldn't take it." In New York, said Langford, who is here with her two-year-old daughter Daniela, people pay a lot to have their dogs walked every day. Langford didn't walk the dogs herself but had hired helpers to exercise her canine clientele. Now, Langford says, she's definitely going back into showbiz.

QUITE a number of newcomers have joined the local diplomatic community. Among them is Robin Andrew Kealy CMG, who two days ago took up his appointment as British consul-general in Jerusalem, succeeding Richard Dalton. This is Kealy's fourth posting in the region, having served in Baghdad, Kuwait and Tripoli. His most recent appointment, however, was on home turf. He just spent two years as head of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Aviation and Maritime Department in London. Before that, he was director of trade promotion at the British Embassy in Paris.

WHEN Cypriots and Greeks get together, you can expect the dust to fly. At least that's what happened this week at a dinner at the Hyatt Hotel Jerusalem where the new ambassador for Cyprus, Euphrosyne Efron, and

once nearly everyone else in the room got up to join the circle, they dispensed with convention and proved to be even more talented than the professional dancers flown in for the occasion.

MUSIC is the best medicine according to pharmacologist Jeannette Yehudayan-Rothstein, who, at a national convention of Lemait health fund pharmacists in Ramat Gan, provided the entertainment. Born in Tiberias, Rothstein, who at the age of 12 came to Israel alone and was educated at Kfar Hassidim and the Hebrew University, distanced herself from her Persian background until after her marriage. In 1985, during a year's stay in West Africa with her husband, the music of her childhood caught up with her, and this started the process of reconciliation. A talented singer, she began collecting, classifying, studying and performing different types of Persian music. She has appeared with her

Shiraz band at numerous festivals and on radio and television. When the opportunity to perform for her professional peers presented itself, she simply raised her voice in song.

HAIFA UNIVERSITY chairman Lord Jacobs, who was recently elevated to the peerage, was feted by his friends Ana and Eli Schalit of Caesarea, who held a reception in his honor attended by numerous industrialists, business executives, and high-ranking academics.

AFTER all the money she spent on her plastic surgery, Dolly Parton is, to put it mildly, crestfallen. All that costly and careful reconstruction of face and body came apart at the seams, and that great facelift has plummeted. The eternal optimist, Parton believes that hers is a case in which Humpty Dumpty can be put together again.

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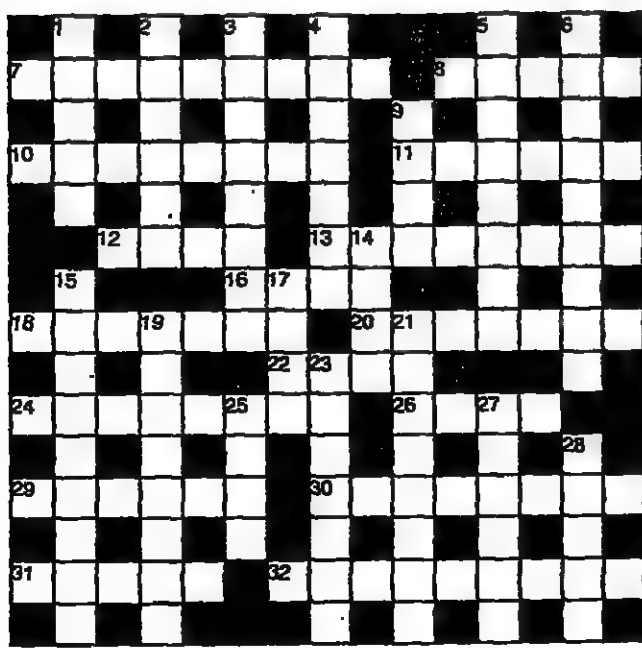
- 7 Quarrelling pets (3,3,3)
- 8 Number at Welsh resort (5)
- 10 Don Brook creation that is turned by hand (8)
- 11 Sailor Bill uses half of the old counter (6)
- 13 Legendary works each containing identical Roman figures (4)
- 13 Spread all round city an area... (8)
- 16 Drink cocktail, looking wooden (4)
- 18 The intellectual had for example double trouble (7)
- 20 Account of refined 17 at Yarmouth school (7)
- 22 Little woman left an alcoholic radical (4)
- 24 Note with regret not all are revolting (8)

- 26 Pop group making a come-back unchanged (4)
- 29 Island paradise wherein a number take a German title (6)
- 30 Thrash, thrash, thrash (8)
- 31 Way to acquire wood store (5)
- 32 Wendy Sade went berserk yesterday (9)

DOWN

- 1 Henry's on to a case which causes devastation (5)
- 2 It's senseless to dispose of foreign capital (8)
- 3 Paradise so long as beasts don't get toothache (8)
- 4 Grave nothing! The French take a chance with it (7)

- 5 Recollected having been summoned again (8)
- 6 How long does a boxing match last? Too long! (5,4)
- 9 Non-clerical member of US city is in charge (4)
- 14 Appeal to Catherine for approval (4)
- 15 Make situation worse for a Girl Guide initially, Virginia, in class (9)
- 17 Dame fell over cheese (4)
- 19 Eel sheds constructed despite the dangers (8)
- 21 One who petitions for wild animal caught outside (8)
- 23 Cereal food that is eaten by errant males (7)
- 25 Admits possessing (4)
- 27 Cook what a follower could get? (6)
- 28 Sounds metal, Rob! (5)



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BARE UHAN ETNA
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WOODEN SHADE
I O A E H I U
GANDERS SWEATER

Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Cereal, 4 Ribes, 8 Apple, 9 Iceland, 10 Teeming, 11 Yale, 12 Eel, 14 Vera, 15 Adde, 16 Net, 21 Bare, 23 Oversee, 25 Rubella, 26 Doubt, 27 Budge, 28 Brutal.
DOWN: 1 Chaste, 2 Replete, 3 American, 4 Eased, 5 Teams, 6 Sudden, 7 Hinge, 13 Levander, 16 Disrupt, 17 Church, 19 Total, 20 Mental, 22 Rabbit, 24 Chae.

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Emotion (7)
- 5 Table (5)
- 8 Undo (5)
- 9 Utter (7)
- 10 Bicycles for two (7)
- 11 Finished (5)
- 12 Fix (6)
- 14 Cross-breed (6)
- 17 Bulldog clip (5)
- 19 Eternal (7)
- 22 Irritating (7)
- 23 — or crumb (5)
- 24 Female relative (5)
- 26 Showed gratitude (7)

DOWN

- 1 Error (5)
- 2 Makes longer (7)
- 3 Girl's name (5)
- 4 Fat (6)
- 5 Power source (7)
- 6 Correct (5)
- 7 Feared greatly (7)
- 12 Not fact (7)
- 13 Blow up (7)
- 15 Deer (7)
- 16 Notice (6)
- 18 Leg joint (5)
- 20 Russian summer house (5)
- 21 Full (5)

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NEW UPCOMING COURSE SCHEDULE	Room	Hours	Tel Aviv Center		Jerusalem Center	
			Held on	Start date	Held on	Start date
TECHNICAL WRITING (morning session)	33	99	Sun, Tue, Thu, 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Feb. 26	Sun, Tue, Thu, 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Jan. 8
TECHNICAL WRITING (evening session)	33	99	Sun, Tue, Thu, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Feb. 26	Sun, Tue, Thu, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 8
WEB PUBLISHING	16	48	Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Apr. 22	Wednesdays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Feb. 4
CNE Express Track (7 courses)	26	159	Mon. & Wed. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Mar. 9	Tue. & Thu. 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Jan. 6
CNE Regular Track (7 courses)	32	159	Mon. & Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Mar. 9	Tue. & Thu. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	June 4
WINDOWS NT MCSE Express Track (5 courses)	28	224	Tue. & Thu. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Feb. 3	Mon. & Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Feb. 2
WINDOWS NT MCSE Regular Track (5 courses)	75	224	Tue. & Thu. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Feb. 3	Mon. & Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Dec. 15
"A" PC SUPPORT ENGINEER (not ON)	18	72	Wed. 12:30-4:30 p.m.	Dec. 3	Sun. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Jan. 4
MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT using Director	13	40	Wed. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Feb. 26	Sun. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Dec. 7
VISUAL C++	10	30	Mon. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Feb. 26	Mon. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.	Dec. 8
VISUAL BASIC	10	30	Mon. 12 noon - 3 p.m.	Jan. 5	Wed. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Jan. 7
C/C++ PROGRAMMING	22	90	Sun. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Mar. 15	Sun. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 11
COREL DRAW	16	48	Mon. 9 a.m. - 12 noon	Jan. 5	Wed. 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.	Dec. 17
JAVAVISUAL J++ (for Professionals)	20	80	Sun. 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.	Jan. 4	N/A	N/A
CERTIFIED NOVELL ADMINISTRATOR	10	40	Fri. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Jan. 8	N/A	N/A

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Can you imagine bringing up five children and providing them with clothes, medical care, school books, let alone food and heating in the winter, on that salary, without even beginning to think of Hanukka presents, etc.?

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HISTADRUT

Continued from Page 14

"The Histadrut has the power to give more help to the weaker sectors of the population. It all depends on whether it will use this power for their benefit," Jacobson said.

As for the general strike's effect on the economy, economic consultant Ezra Sadan said it would actually bring more stability. "You can't have a general strike every day. It's better for the government to settle matters with the Histadrut's central leadership than to have to deal in

piecemeal fashion with one local after the other," he said.

Regarding the Finance Ministry's claim that the state is facing a future pension debt to public sector employees of some NIS 300 billion, Sadan said economists who used to work in the Finance Ministry put the figure at about NIS 100 billion. But whatever the real size of the debt, the payments are not due today, but rather will be spread out over coming decades, noted Jacobson.

Israel's pension debt is a serious problem, he said, but throwing out the figure of NIS 300 billion without explanation was a "scare tactic" aimed at winning

public support.

The Histadrut came in for widespread condemnation for defying the National Labor Court's back-to-work order. "This was a very grave action. The rule of law comes before everything else in a democracy," Jacobson said. While both union locals and employers have defied labor court orders in the past, Jacobson said he could not recall a precedent for the national Histadrut doing so.

At the same time, Jacobson said Neeman had acted in bad faith by refusing to honor the agreement reached last year by Peretz and Shohat. And the gov-

ernment continued a misguided practice of trying to settle its disputes with the Histadrut by rushing to the labor court for restraining orders against striking workers," he said.

National Labor Court President Stephen Adler earns high marks from Jacobson for disregarding Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's contempt-of-court orders against Peretz, and for facilitating negotiations between the Finance Ministry and the Histadrut, which ended the strike. "Labor disputes," Jacobson declared, "should be settled in negotiations, not in court."

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THE JERUSALEM POST

Israel - from every point of view

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Orlando snaps losing streak against Chicago



FORWARD MOTION - Bulls forward Toni Kukoc is pressured by Magic forward Charles Oudlaw during first-quarter action.

ORLANDO (AP) - Rony Seikaly scored 24 of his 26 points in the second half and Orlando made 21 of 23 free throws in the fourth quarter to end its 11-game losing streak against Chicago with a 106-98 victory Wednesday night.

The Magic, who hadn't beaten the Bulls since November 14, 1995, did it without leading scorer Penny Hardaway, who underwent arthroscopic surgery on his left knee earlier in the day and will be sidelined 8 to 10 weeks.

Michael Jordan struggled from the field, going 6-for-17. He was 13-of-13 at the foul line and finished with 25 points. Toni Kukoc scored 24 and Ron Harper 20 for the Bulls.

Celtics 96, Bucks 91
Travis Knight had 13 points and 10 rebounds and made two free throws with 9.7 seconds left to help Boston stop its five-game losing streak.

Hornets 104, Wizards 101
The host Hornets blew a 17-point lead in the fourth quarter before rallying past Washington, which was playing several hours after team owner Ted Leonsis' funeral.

Cavaliers 102, Nuggets 83
Wesley Person scored 18 points and Shawn Kemp 17 as host Cleveland won its ninth straight.

Raptors 104, 76ers 97
Toronto ended a franchise-worst 17-game losing streak as Walt Williams scored 39 points.

Warriors 93, Lakers 92
Joe Smith had eight of his 27 points in the fourth quarter as Golden State, winning its second straight at home since Latrell Sprewell's firing, defeated Los Angeles.

Spurs 102, Clippers 87
Avery Johnson had a career-high

20 assists and David Robinson scored 30 points to lead host San Antonio to victory.

The Spurs, who never trailed, broke a three-game losing streak. Trail Blazers 93, Pacers 85
The Trail Blazers blew a 14-point halftime lead, then rallied in the fourth quarter behind Rasheed Wallace for its third straight victory.

The Pacers concluded a five-game road trip by losing their second in a row after winning six straight.

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Washington	9	12	.429	6
Boston	8	11	.421	6 1/2
Philadelphia	5	13	.278	10 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	15	4	.789	-
Cleveland	13	6	.682	2
Charlotte	12	7	.632	3
Chicago	12	8	.600	3 1/2
Indiana	8	13	.379	4
Milwaukee	11	9	.550	4 1/2
Detroit	9	12	.429	7
Toronto	2	19	.095	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Midwest Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	12	5	.705	—
Houston	12	8	.600	1½
San Antonio	11	10	.524	3
Phoenix	8	11	.421	5½
Memphis	7	14	.333	7
Dallas	5	14	.263	8½
Denver	2	17	.105	11½
Pacific Division				
Seattle	16	5	.762	—
LA Lakers	15	5	.750	½
Phoenix	12	5	.706	2
Portland	13	6	.684	2½
Sacramento	7	14	.333	9
LA Clippers	4	17	.198	12
Golden State	3	15	.167	13½

Minnesota 21 19 30 32-51
Boston 22 22 19 32-56
MILWAUKEE (91) **Redskins** 23 22-62, **Walters** 4-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 1-0-0, **Johnson** 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Devils top Oilers with backup goalie Dunham

EAST RUTHERFORD (AP) - Backup goaltender Mike Dunham made 27 saves and gave New Jersey a rare win without Martin Brodeur in leading the Devils to a 4-2 victory over the Edmonton Oilers on Wednesday night.

Flames 4, Rangers 1
In New York, Rick Tabaracci made 30 saves to pace the Calgary

Flames over the struggling New York Rangers.

The Rangers gave up the first goal at home for the 16th time in 18 games this season as they dropped to 5-7-6 at Madison Square Garden. They are 1-5-4 overall in their last 10 games.

Panthers 5, Hurricanes 2
Robert Svehla scored a goal and added two assists as visiting Florida struck for three second-period goals in a span of 5:21.

Canadiens 4, Blues 3 (OT)
Vincent Damphousse scored 55 seconds into overtime to cap host Montreal's comeback from a three-goal deficit.

Avalanche 2, Leafs 2
Patrick Roy made 51 saves, including four during a five-second stop midway through the third period of Colorado's away tie.

Stars 3, Lightning 0
Ed Belfour had to stop only 12

shots for his franchise-record seventh shutout and Sergei Zubov had a goal and an assist as Dallas extended its home winning streak to seven games.

Coyotes 3, Blackhawks 3
Keith Tkachuk scored a power-play goal with 7:23 left in regulation as visiting Phoenix tied.

Penguins 3, Mighty Ducks 0
Tom Barrasso earned his fourth

shutout in his last five road games and Jaromir Jagr scored twice in the first period as Pittsburgh won on the road.

Capitals 3, Sharks 3
Peter Bondra's power-play goal with 29 seconds left in the third period gave visiting Washington a

tie.

San Jose's Marco Sturm had scored from the right circle with 2:35 left in regulation to give the Sharks a 3-2 lead.

Joe Juneau had tied the game 2-2 at 6:32 of the third period on a shot from eight feet out.

WINNING CARDS
in yesterday's Israel Hapavim daily chance drawing

J	10	8	K
A	Q	9	10

WEATHER

Location	Low	High	Forecast
Jerusalem	10-15	18-22	cloudy
Tel Aviv	12-18	20-24	cloudy
Haifa	14-20	22-28	cloudy
Beersheva	16-22	24-30	cloudy
Dimona	18-24	26-32	cloudy
Netanya	14-20	22-28	cloudy
Ramat Gan	14-20	22-28	cloudy
Herzliya	14-20	22-28	cloudy
Be'er Sheva	16-22	24-30	cloudy
Dimona	18-24	26-32	cloudy
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Herzliya	14-20	22-28	cloudy
Be'er Sheva	16-22	24-30	cloudy
Dimona	18-24	26-32	cloudy
Netanya	14-20	22-28	cloudy
Ramat Gan	14-20	22-28	cloudy
Herzliya	14-20	22-28	cloudy
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Inside

Magic break Bulls' jinx
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Sports Editors
Joe Nathan & Ori Luria

Betar take on Beit She'an amidst Toto fever

By DEREK FATTAL

A bumper Toto cash prize over NIS 12 million is up for grabs this weekend with round 14. Toto booths across the country have reported a huge increase in business over the last few days with punters vying to get their hands on the biggest windfall this season.

Betar Jerusalem are once again enjoying life at the top of the National League. Last Saturday's narrow 1-0 away victory over Bnei Yehuda Tel Aviv put the Jerusalemites back in first place overtaking former leaders Hapoel Tel Aviv who were held to a draw at Bloomfield by Hapoel Beersheba.

Hapoel Tel Aviv are away to Hapoel Petah Tikva and both sides need a win to avoid slipping away from Betar. The match will be screened live on Channel Two.

Hapoel Ashdod's new coach Roni Dura could be coaching from the stands later this afternoon. Menashe Nuriel, the man he replaced has declined to accept his agreed compensation in the form of post-dated checks, and the club's currently-approved budget does not extend to paying an additional coaching salary.

This weekend's National League fixtures: Today: Hapoel Kfar Sava v. Ironi Ashdod, 14:00; Hapoel Ashdod v. Maccabi Herzliya 14:00. Tomorrow: Maccabi Tel Aviv v. Maccabi Petah Tikva, National Stadium Ramat Gan, 15:30; Betar Jerusalem v. Hapoel Beit She'an, Teddy Stadium, 15:00; Hapoel Haifa v. Bnei Yehuda, Kiryat Eliezer, 15:00; Ironi Rishon LeZion v. Maccabi Haifa, 14:30; Hapoel Beersheba v. Hapoel Jerusalem, 14:30; Hapoel Petah Tikva v. Hapoel Tel Aviv 17:15.

National League															
	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts		GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Betar Jerusalem	13	7	4	0	30	14	21								
Hapoel Tel Aviv	13	7	5	1	13	4	24								
Hapoel Haifa	13	7	4	2	24	14	25								
Hapoel Petah Tikva	13	7	3	3	22	16	24								
Maccabi Haifa	13	6	3	4	23	16	21								
Ironi Ashdod	13	5	6	2	18	17	21								
Hapoel Jerusalem	13	5	5	3	17	17	20								
Hapoel Kfar Sava	13	6	1	6	16	17	19								
Maccabi Herzliya	13	4	4	5	19	18	16								
Ironi Rishon LeZion	13	3	5	5	16	18	14								
Maccabi Tel Aviv	13	3	4	6	14	17	13								
Hapoel Beersheba	13	2	7	4	9	13	11								
Bnei Yehuda	13	2	5	6	12	18	11								
Hapoel Ashdod	13	3	2	8	13	23	11								
Hapoel She'an	13	2	4	7	10	19	10								
Hapoel Beersheba	13	1	4	8	14	28	7								

SCOREBOARD

UEFA Cup: Vfl Bochum 2, Ajax Amsterdam 2. Ajax advances to quarter-finals on 6-4 aggregate.

England-India: In the opening match of the Champions' Trophy tournament yesterday at Sharjah, UAE. Scores: England 250 all out in 49.5 overs, India 243 all out in 49.3 overs.

South Africa-New Zealand: In their World Series limited overs international yesterday in Hobart. Scores: SA 174 for nine, NZ 173 for seven in 50 overs.

Turks send Maccabi TA reeling

Hapoel Jerusalem remain in EuroLeague cellar

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Efes Pilsen became the first Turkish team ever to win at Yad Eliahu, sending Maccabi Tel Aviv to a 70-61 defeat last night in EuroLeague action.

The loss, which drops Maccabi's record to 4-5, means that it must defeat defending European champions Olympiakos in Greece and hope for an Efes victory over CSKA Moscow next week in order to finish third in Group A and earn the right to play the three weakest clubs in Group B in the league's next stage.

Maccabi still advances to the next stage if it fails to finish in the top three, but it then must play the top three teams in Group B in order to advance to the Final 16.

The game was much closer than the score indicated, as neither team held more than a five-point advantage for all but the last 30 seconds.

Superstar Peter Naumanski upheld his reputation as a thorn in Maccabi's side. He was held to only five points in the game's first 27 minutes, at which point Maccabi held its largest advantage of the game, 45-41.

But then he exploded for 14 points in the final 13 minutes, including his first two three-pointers of the game, to lead a charge which sent the capacity crowd home wondering what happened.

One obvious factor was the super play of Oded Katash, who suffered from the flu during the week. Katash, who came into the contest as the leading scorer in EuroLeague play with a 23.6 average, scored only four points on the night on 1-10 shooting.

To make matters worse, he also turned the ball over several times at crucial junctures and had three 3-point attempts blocked, one of which turned into a fast-break basket for Naumanski and sparked the Turks on a 11-4 run to open up a 57-52 advantage with only 5:45 remaining in the game.

Maccabi, in fact, recovered at that point to cut the margin and was behind only 63-61 as late as 90 seconds remaining, but the Turkish defense, one of the best in

Europe, kept the Israelis off the scoreboard for the rest of the game.

Maccabi entered the game as the fifth best three-point shooting team (out of 24 teams) at 39.8%, but finished the night only 3-11 (27%).

Tel Aviv also brought into the contest the best free-throw shooting percentage in the EuroLeague, but in the last 10 minutes of the game both Rashard Griffith and Randy White missed two free throws which could have turned the tide.

And in the first half an inexcusable foul by Constantin Popa at the buzzer cost Maccabi two crucial points.

For Maccabi, Griffith had 17 points, Doron Sheffer 13, Nadav Henefeld 9, Randy White 8, Derrick Sharp 6, and Katash and Popa 4 each.

For Efes, Naumanski and Howard both had 19, Mirsad Turkcan had 13, Murat Evliyaoglu 11 (double his EuroLeague average), Tamar Oyguc 6 and Rod Sellers 2.

Meanwhile, Hapoel Jerusalem lost a chance to get out of the Group C cellar by losing to Pau-Orthez 79-67 before a packed house at Malha.

Doron Shefa paced Hapoel with 21 points, while Kenny Williams and Motti Daniel each had 13.

For Pau, Mustafa Sonko led the way with 15, while Thierry Gadou had 14.

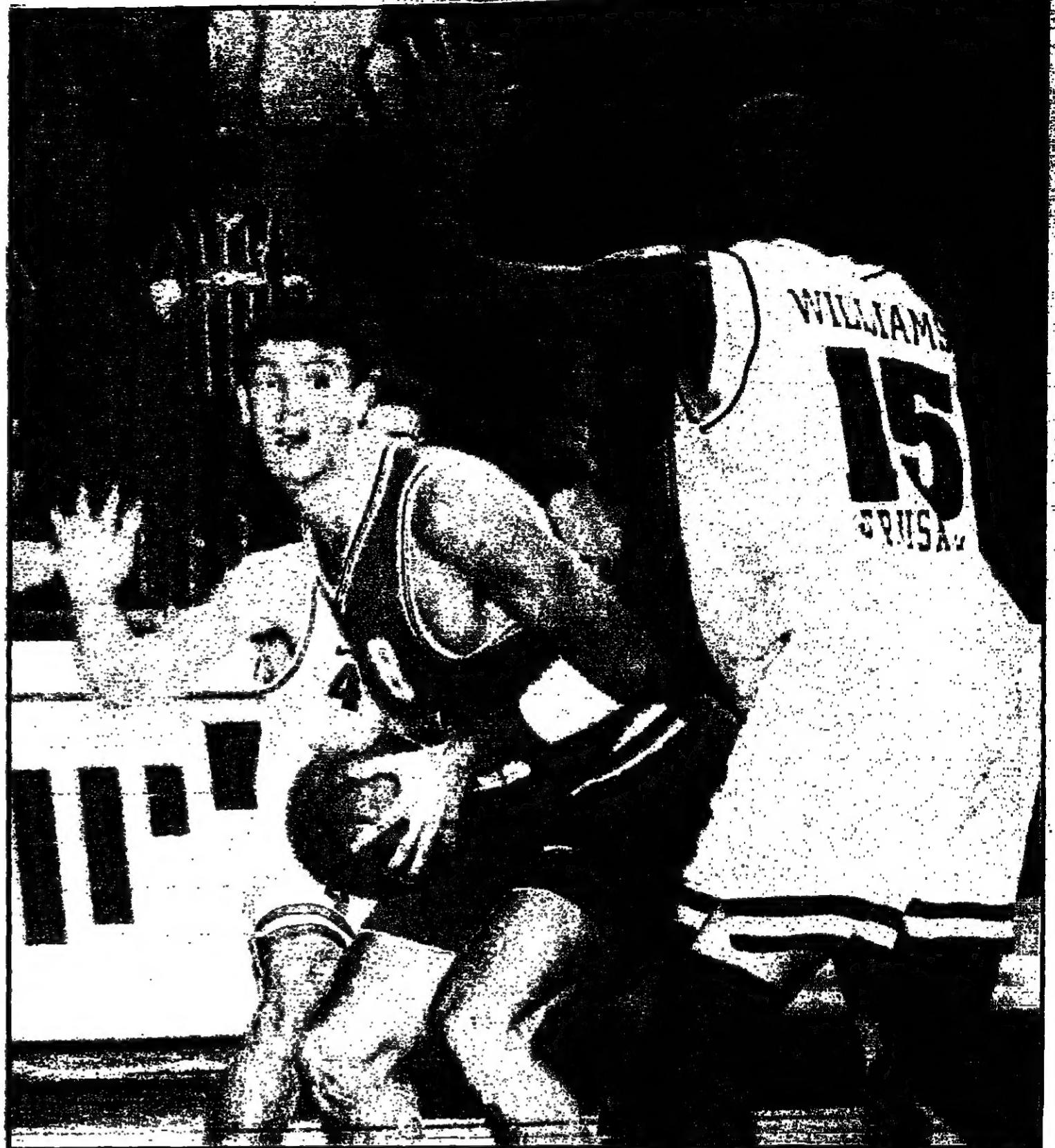
Group A
In Moscow: CSKA Moscow 83, Limoges 70.

In Athens: Olympiakos Piraeus 82, Real Madrid 75.

Group C
In Belgrade: Partizan Belgrade 49, Kinder Bologna 74.

Group A			
	W	L	Pts.
Olympiakos	7	2	16
Efes Pilsen	5	4	14
CSKA Moscow	5	4	14
Maccabi Tel Aviv	4	5	13
Limoges	3	6	12
Real Madrid	3	6	12

Group C			
	W	L	Pts.
Kinder Bologna	8	1	17
Barcelona	5	3	13
Partizan Belgrade	4	5	13
Pau-Orthez	4	5	13
Ulster	3	5	11
Hapoel Jerusalem	2	7	11



LOOKING FOR DAYLIGHT - Thierry Gadou of Pau Orthez looks for an opening as he is guarded by Hapoel Jerusalem's Kenny Williams during first-half action. The French side won, 79-67, leaving the capital hoopsters at the bottom of the standings. (Reuters)

Last respects paid to Billy Bremner

DONCASTER (AP) — Fans, teammates and coaches paid their last respects yesterday to Billy Bremner, the former Leeds and Scotland star who died Sunday at the age of 54.

Hundreds of fans, many in tears, stood outside St. Mary's Church in London to listen to the funeral mass for Bremner.

"I knew him for a long time," said Manchester United manager and fellow Scot Alex Ferguson. "He still had the same great enthusiasm for Leeds. He was a great player for Leeds United and Scotland."

The mourners also included former Leeds' teammates Johnny Giles, Norman Hunter, Peter Lorimer and Eddie Gray.

Nebraska: Coach Osborne retires, defensive end Wistrom wins Lombardi award

LINCOLN, Nebraska (AP) — Tom Osborne retired as football coach at Nebraska on Wednesday, ending an era at the school in which he became one of US college football's most successful coaches and the Cornhuskers ruled the sport.

He will coach the No. 2 Cornhuskers against No. 3 Tennessee in the Orange Bowl on January 2 and said he may stay on until February if he can help the team.

"I think it's wise to back off before you leave feet first or somebody tells me it's time to go," Osborne said.

Longtime assistant Frank Solich, the running backs coach,

will succeed Osborne, pending approval from the university Board of Regents.

Osborne said his health played a role in his decision. The 60-year-old coach had heart bypass surgery 13 years ago and was diagnosed with an irregular heart beat this year.

Osborne weathered criticism in recent years over his decisions to allow players facing criminal charges to stay on the field. He came under sharp criticism in 1995 for his decision to reinstate star tailback Lawrence Phillips to the team even after Phillips pleaded no contest to charges of assaulting a former girlfriend.

For a quarter-century, Osborne

and Nebraska have been perennial powers, winning consecutive national titles in 1956 and 1957 while compiling a 254-93-3 mark with 24 straight bowl appearances.

The Cornhuskers (12-0) may have a shot at a third national title in four years — if they win the Orange Bowl and top-ranked Michigan loses to Washington State in the Rose Bowl.

Osborne retires as the sixth winningest coach in Division I-A history, behind Bear Bryant, Pop Warner, Amos Alonzo Stagg, Joe Paterno and Bobby Bowden.

Osborne leaves at the top. The Cornhuskers are 59-3 over the past five years with five straight 11-win seasons, an NCAA best.

He said the difficult part about retiring was telling his players.

"I care very much about those guys so that's what's been most difficult," he said. "I hope at some point they will realize that I'm trying to do what's the best thing for them."

Wistrom wins Lombardi award

Just hours after learning that his coach was retiring, Nebraska defensive end Grant Wistrom got

good news that he had won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top collegiate lineman.

Wistrom, a 6-foot-5 (1.96m), 250-pound (112kg) senior, was a main cog in the defense that helped the Cornhuskers take a 12-0 record into Osborne's final game as coach. Wistrom credited Osborne for his success.

"The man meant the world to me the last four years," Wistrom said. "He praised me when I needed praise and he scolded me when I needed scolding. He's been a father to me away from my own father. Next to my father, I respect him the most."

Wistrom, the school's career leader in tackles for losses, became Nebraska's fourth Lombardi winner and first since Dean Steinkuhler in 1983.

On Monday, he was named Big 12 defensive player of the year for the second year in a row.

Wistrom beat out Greg Ellis of N. Carolina, Andy Katzenmoyer of Ohio St. and Andre Wadsworth of Florida St. for the 28th annual trophy, named in honor of former Green Bay and Washington coach "Winning-is-the-only-thing" Vince Lombardi.

United 5-2 EuroCup favorites

LONDON (Reuters) — Manchester United were quoted as 5-2 favorites to win the European Cup following the last round of group matches in the Champions' League on Wednesday.

William Hill bookmakers gave the odds for the eight teams in the quarter-finals as follows: 5-2 Manchester United, 11-4 Juventus, 5-1 Real Madrid, 6-1 Bayern Munich, 9-1 Borussia Dortmund, 12-1 Dynamo Kiev, 14-1 Monaco, 16-1 Bayer Leverkusen.

4 Israeli rackets reach quarter-finals

Four Israelis have reached today's quarter-finals of the \$50,000 Club Hotel Elit Tennis Challenger.

Top local player and eighth seed Eyal Erlich, Eyal Ran, Noam Behr and Amir Hadad all succeeded yesterday while only two seeded foreign players survived to the final eight. They are first- and second-seeds Dominik Hrbaty from Slovakia and Dinu Pescariu from Romania.

Erlich will meet Hrbaty, Ran will take on Neville Godwin from South Africa, and Behr and Hadad will face each other in today's matches. The last quarter-final will pit Pescariu against Finn Thomas Ketola. Heather Chait

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